

JPRS-NEA-86-064

22 MAY 1986

## Near East/South Asia Report

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22 MAY 1986

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PETRA PHYSICS SCHOOL

Amman AFAQ 'ILMIYAH in Arabic Jan-Feb 86 p 13

[Article: "The Petra International School of Physics"]

[Text] Early last September, meetings of the 3rd session of the Petra International School for Physics were held in the Jordanian capital, Amman. These meetings, which were held in the Yarmuk University liaison office in Amman, lasted 8 days.

The Petra school is a scientific activity held in Amman periodically for the purpose of stimulating scientific research in physics in particular and political science in general and creating a forum for the exchange of scientific thought and experimental experiences among scientists in Jordan and the Arab world, on the one hand, and their colleagues in the rest of the world, on the other.

Since its establishment in 1982, Petra has held three specialized seminars. The first one dealt with behavior of electrons in crystals, in addition to technical methods in solid state physics by using nuclear acceleration. The second seminar dealt with the light properties of inorganic matter and initial excitation physics and its importance in studying mass planes. The third seminar was about the laser and its applications. Participants presented a comprehensive presentation on the latest scientific developments, studies, research, and ongoing experiments in the laser field. Special sessions were devoted to the discussion of laser applications in industry, medicine, and certain military uses.

12502

CSO: 4404/294

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GENETIC ENGINEERING SEMINAR--The Arab Scientific Research Councils Federation, in cooperation with the Life Sciences Research Center of the Iraqi Scientific Research Council, organized a genetic engineering seminar in Baghdad 18 to 20 November 1985 in which 109 university and research center scientists and researchers from various Arab countries participated. Discussed were 15 working papers in various genetic engineering fields: principles and applications, dangers and safety criteria, precautions, legal ramifications, and social background. [Text] [Amman AFAQ 'ILMIYAH in Arabic Jan-Feb 86 p 13] 12502

CSO: 4404/294

EGYPT

SLP PRESENTS VIEWS ON ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic 17 Mar 86 pp 32-33

[Article by Iman Mustafa]

[Text] The Socialist Labor Party outlined its views regarding the priorities that should be included in the next 5-year plan, namely that the goals that it had been hoped would be achieved during the years of the next 5-year plan have been turned upside down, following the drop in oil export prices and the consequences of that with respect to income from the Suez Canal and remittances from Egyptians working abroad. The party proposed a number of ways to increase revenues or to mobilize them in a way that would make up for, if only partially, the decrease in these revenues.

Dr Hilmi Murad, general secretary of the party and chairman of the economic committee, said that first of all care must be taken in the next plan to tie the projects of each sector, through out the years that the plan is in effect, in which the projects of the other sectors. Unfortunately, the current plan there has been no integration or close coordination between projects. We see, for example, that often an irrigation or drainage station would be opened, while the land that is to be irrigated has not yet been reclaimed, or will be reclaimed at the end of the plan, and thus we would have idled the capital for a long period of time without any return. This is what we mean by integration and close coordination. We must first avoid this mistake, and there must be communication between the projects that are implemented in the course of a year.

The Labor Party believes that the priorities upon which the next plan must be based are as follows:

--Giving increased attention to reducing imports and increasing exports. Heading the projects that should get sufficient attention are those pertaining to food, and therefore it is necessary to immediately review the cropping system so as to induce the multitude of farmers to exert the maximum effort needed to raise and improve the productivity of the country's needs. In this context it is enough to point to the fact that some of the states around Egypt, which are not agricultural states, have achieved self-sufficiency in the production of grains, for example, and have turned into grain-exporting states, like Saudi Arabia for example.



Attention should also be paid to the ready-made clothing industry, since there are plenty of raw materials, and therefore it would be easy for us to become an exporting state for this type of industry, whether to the Arab or African states. It is a shame to see that the ready-made jalabiyahs that are sold in Saudi Arabia are made in Hong Kong, and that prayer rungs are made in China and Japan. This calls for a review of foreign markets and their needs.

--Giving a strong push to the private sector in agriculture and industry, taking care to take sufficient steps to ensure that acts of assault and fraud do not occur. The private sector should be watched over as is the public sector, but without interference in its affairs, so that this interference would not be interpreted as being a kind of inhibitory pressure that is not compatible with the nature of the private sector.

--The adoption of projects for economic, popular housing which are not approached by the investment sector. The upcoming plan should concentrate on building homes in remote regions in such a way that the cost of the land is not counted in the value of a housing unit so as to limit price increases. After that the government should provide these regions with the various means of communication.

--Taking out all new, non-essential projects so as to expand the arena for our financial capabilities at this critical time for essential projects with rapid returns, so that attention will be focused on increasing production vertically and not horizontally so as to get rapid returns until we get through this crisis.

Concerning the Labor party's proposals for making up the revenue shortfall, Dr Hilmi Murad outlined them as follows:

--Reviewing the tax system in Egypt so as to impose emergency taxes on commercial and financial profits, on condition that these taxes be lifted when this critical period is over. This proposal is not new; it was applied previously after the second world war during a period of extraordinary profits. Also, many states impose these emergency taxes during times of monetary inflation as a means of combatting inflation and limiting price increases.

--Reviewing the circumstances of the public and private free zones so that these zones do not become centers for smuggling imported goods into the country without the payment of customs duties, and working to change these zones into centers for manufacturing and storage, then of exporting to the country of the zone, as Hong Kong and Singapore have done.

--Giving sufficient attention to tourism, and if the recent events affect our touristic reputation for a while, it will be possible to overcome that over time if efforts are made to improve the internal situation so as to achieve real reform, and this in and of itself is a guarantee that tourism in Egypt will be stimulated.

--Paying attention to production, especially in the public sector. That calls for a limit on setting up new projects arising from projects already in existence, since that serves to weaken the existing projects, which we hope will cooperate to their full capacity this time.

--Imposing some kind of control over the use of all kinds of banks of the deposits and savings that they have so as to ensure that apart of these proceeds issued in investment inside the country, and the government should present well-studied projects to these banks for them to finance. This would make up for the shortfall in revenues, in addition to increasing job opportunities as well as kindling the lost spirit of productivity.

Finally, appearances of extravagance and luxury should be checked up on as a way of combatting tax evasion, for it is possible to use these appearances as a way of reviewing the tax reports that are submitted, but which do not cite the facts.

12547/13068

CSO: 4504/281

EGYPT

## PEASANTS ADVOCATE DOMESTIC WHEAT PRODUCTION

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Mar 86 p 4

[Article by Samiyah Bulus: "We Are Supporting the American Peasant! Egyptian Peasants Are Prepared To Grow Wheat If the Government Raises Its Prices on our Behalf"]

[Text] The new crop composition is an attempt to free Egypt from an existing or upcoming food shortage. Therefore, this composition calls for an increase in acreage farmed with grain, especially wheat, corn, beans and lentils.

But how is this being carried out? By law and through fines, or by winning farmers over and realizing their interests?

'Abd-al-Halim Za'luk, a peasant from Dassuq in the Governorate of Kafr al-Shaykh: "I farm 10 feddans, me and my children. I planted 3 feddans of these with wheat and the rest with berseem, because a feddan of berseem brings an income of 500 pounds while a feddan of wheat brings 250 pounds.

"The government is now importing wheat at a price of 40 pounds an ardebb and asks us to supply wheat from our production at just 17 pounds. I wish the government would take our wheat production at the price at which it buys from abroad. Then everyone would grow wheat.

"While the government offers us subsidies in the form of fertilizer and insecticides at below the world prices, and agricultural services for free, I would agree to have it buy an ardebb from me at 30 pounds instead of 40, and am prepared to plant most of the area with wheat."

### The Problems of Marketing

The farmer Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sarsawi, from Minuf, speaks from another angle, and says:

"Peasants from al-Minufiyah, for example, are experiencing a well known situation, which is that the farmers' owned land is less than a feddan, sometimes less than 5 feddans. Therefore, the use of agricultural machinery in harvesting wheat has not been feasible and thus the cost of raising the harvest of a crop is high.

"In addition, the problem of problems when the crop is delivered to the Development Bank storage is that the storage secretary must resort and sift the wheat and we do not collect the price at once. In the face of these problems the peasant is compelled to turn to village merchants because they pay the price at once,

but the peasant loses 10 percent of his output on selling it to the merchants because he delivers it to them by volume (by the measure) and not weight, which is a loss for the farmer."

#### Wheat for Poultry

Al-Hajj Sa'd al-Jarihi, a peasant from Hawsh 'Isa in the Governorate of al-Buhayrah, says:

"The past season the area planted with wheat in al-Buhayrah increased because the merchants were buying wheat at 25 pounds an ardebb. Of course, the peasants would sell to them because the government pays just 17 pounds per ardebb. However, unfortunately, the wheat which went to the merchants ended up in the poultry coops, because the owners of poultry farms found that the price of wheat is less than that of poultry fodder, which could not be found in abundance.

"Had the government raised the price of wheat, we would have farmed it and supplied the whole crop to the government, not just 2 ardebbs out of each feddan as is the case now."

#### Providing Alternative Fodder

The peasant Sayyid Himam of the village of Abu al-Ghayz in al-Qalyubiyah said: "Agricultural policy proceeded by encouraging the farming of non-traditional crops in the form of fruit and vegetables with the goal of exporting them to obtain hard currency and importing wheat with the earnings from this foreign currency. This policy yields more for the peasant and the government; today if we want to change this policy that must be by convincing the peasant with something that will realize his interests.

"The expansion in wheat and grain farming in general will be at the expense of the cultivation of berseem and it is also necessary to provide alternative fodder for the peasant."

#### Change in the Marketing System

In the central agricultural cooperative federation, Muhammad Idris, the federation's secretary general, said "Crop composition is not a new thing for Egypt, but a successful crop composition is one which arises from the desire of the peasant or one in which his desire, in which the desires of the peasants and the interests of the domestic economy, are taken up in the first place.

"Price policy is the decisive factor in the success of crop composition, not decrees from above. The experiences facing us are numerous. The peasant has often paid the fines imposed on him, which a worthwhile crop such as berseem can realize for him. All pricing policies must be announced early, before the start of farming, and must be connected to a marketing system which is suited to the peasant.

"The current marketing system is only a system of administrative supply for various crops in the form of wheat, rice, onions and so forth, and it entails cooperative marketing in name only.

"It is necessary to clean up the current marketing system and to get it to shift from a system of administrative supply to optional cooperative marketing. If we are advocate having the peasant's membership in agricultural cooperative societies optional, we must not do violence to the issue of choice in marketing."

#### Subsidies for the Egyptian Peasant

Muhammad Idris added, "There has been more talk lately about subsidies and the large sums that are paid to subsidize wheat, but these subsidy amounts all go into the pockets of the American and Australian peasant or to the European Common Market, because we buy from them at the world price, which is much above the price by which the government buys from the Egyptian peasant. This prompts us to ask why we don't pay this subsidy to the Egyptian peasant rather than the foreign peasant.

"If we raise the price of wheat for the Egyptian peasant and declare this price early, a sufficient time before farming, the peasant will redo his calculations and turn toward wheat farming.

"It could be said that the government is offering the peasant a subsidy represented by the reduction of prices for fertilizer or insecticides, but in fact we would welcome the elimination of this subsidy which the government pays out for fertilizer. Let it resume buying at the price at which the government imports or the economic price at which we produce. At that time the peasant will get the world price for his production, whatever this price might be, high or low. That is the peasants' view.

"The fertilizer subsidy goes to affluent people, and the owners of orchards obtain fertilizer at the price the wheat farmer gets while the fruit and vegetable producer sells at the price he considers appropriate and the peasant supplies wheat at the compulsory price.

"As to advocating the subsidy of insecticides, there is no subsidization for the insecticides used in farming wheat. Rather, that is a subsidy for the insecticides used in farming cotton, whose marketing is assumed by the government."

11887

CSO: 4504/267



EGYPT

PAPER VIEWS PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT-SUPPLIED COMMODITIES

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Mar 86 p 4

[Article by Mahmud Nafi': "Surprise: Society Commodities Are More Expensive Than the Private Sector"]

[Text] It appears that the Supply Ministry is now involved in the mission of the Ministry of Tourism!

I confirmed this when I entered a consumer society by chance to buy some household requirements. I asked the salesperson for a jar of jam and he surprised me with a bottle on which was written in a red circle, the word "tourist!" I asked for guava and mango juice; all the cans bore the same word as well.

The same is the situation with flour, sugar and rice. I even found beans, which once sold in societies at the price of 15 piasters, packed in plastic bags on which was written "special packaging," priced at 70 piasters per kilogram!

I looked closely at the place and considered that I was in a shopping center in a major hotel. However, I confirmed that I was present in a very ordinary consumer complex in the ordinary 'Abidin section!

I went about asking people, and learned more.

Sa'diyah Muhammad Ahmad, the wife of an elevator operator who has a salary of 55 pounds, said, "Chicken is sold at a price of 180 piasters a kilogram in the society, while with the 'middleman' it is sold at just 140 piasters, and the price of a kilogram after slaughtering and cleaning is no more than 170 piasters. Therefore I prefer to buy from outside -- it is better and cheaper!

"It is true that the society will sometimes sell another chicken on coupon for 125 piasters a kilogram, but it specifies about 4 chickens per family per month, with the lines and the suffocation."

It is not just chickens that are sold at a higher price in the societies than in the private sector, as Sa'diyah says. There are the beans selling for 70 piasters while they sell for 60 piasters with the fodder vendor!

## A Shift in Lines

As a result of the difference in price between the private sector and the societies, lines for the purchase of anything have shifted from the societies to the private sector merchants. We found a chicken line among middleman.

Why the congestion?

Nur al-Alfi replied, "Because chickens here are cheaper and better than the societies and the chickens are slaughtered before your eyes and you can take them home fresh and unfrozen, contrary to the society. You don't know if the period of their fitness has ended or not.

"In addition, the salmonella preservative is added to the society chickens, and we have heard that that is harmful."

I asked Karim Yusuf, the middleman, about the per-kilogram loss in chickens after they are slaughtered, and he said,

"After slaughtering and cleaning, about 200 grams are lost per kilogram and consequently one can calculate the price of a kilogram net at about just 170 piasters."

I said, "But you might not be selling at fixed price."

He said, "As you see, I have the supply investigation office's stall in front of me!"

## Even Vegetables

We moved on to another line. This time we found it in the al-Tawfiqiyah market, among the vegetable and fruit merchants, although there is a vegetable consumer complex on the other side, which was not meeting with a response from the people.

I asked the people for the secret.

Rizq 'Atiyah, a government employee, said, "There is no secret. Private vegetable dealers are lower-priced than the society. Cucumbers, for example, are sold in the society for a price of 100 piasters, while they sell for just 80 piasters with the vegetable dealers. Peas sell at a price of 45 piasters in the society and at a price of just 40 piasters among the vegetable dealers.

Among vegetable dealers fruit and vegetables are always fresh, contrary to the situation in the society, which brings in new fruit and vegetables only after all it has is used up, whatever its state might be."

Mrs Rose Hassan, an Italian, calculates things in a different way. She buys fruit and vegetables from the private sector and does not buy them from the society even if they are cheaper. The society sells fruit and vegetables in packages which include good ones and spoiled ones, and a kilogram net turns into about only

half a kilogram, while she chooses what she wants from the private sector and there is no waste. Therefore, in her opinion, the private sector is cheaper.

#### We Come out Ahead

Concerning his explanation of that, 'Ali al-Jazzar, a merchant in the al-Tawfiqi-yah market, said simply, "I am a free man. I like to weigh things and sell at the price I want, according to my assessment of movement in the market, so that I can end up selling everything I have day by day, contrary to the complex, where the seller cannot sell below the specified price because he does not have the authority to do so and it is not in his power to get rid of spoiled quantities and buy others."

'Ali al-Jazzar added: "In spite of that, I earn a lot. I buy a kilogram of cucumbers at a price of 60 piasters and sell it at a price of 80, while the complex sells it at a price of 100 piasters. That is, I earn 20 piasters for a kilogram of cucumbers and the society earns 40 piasters.

"I buy peas for a price of 32 piasters from the wholesaler and sell them at a price of 40 piasters. I thus earn 8 piasters per kilogram, while the complex sells them at a price of 45 piasters and earns 13 piasters.

"The same is the case with the other commodities, although the complex gets its commodities cheaper because it does not go through the links and the middlemen I go through."

#### In the Supply Ministry

I carried my papers and went to the Ministry of Supply. I asked Husayn Khalil, the deputy minister, about the definition of the word "tourist" and its relationship to supply commodities!

He said, "The word 'tourist' has been given to commodities which are not subsidized and are sold at their economic price, that is, at their cost. These commodities originated with Ministerial Decree 68 for 1984, which referred to the bodies which dispose of shares of these commodities, that is, hotels, public and tourist shops, restaurants, casinos and companies established in accordance with the provisions of Law 43 for 1973, the investment law, as well as international organizations and bodies, foreign embassies and so forth.

"The classes of these commodities have been defined. These are sugar, with distinctive packages for tourist purposes, (kamilinsu) rice, long-grain rice, deluxe flour and the output of the Qaha and Edfina companies."

I said, "But the consumer societies are not hotels, political installations or foreign embassies."

He stated, "The societies which sell these commodities are advanced ones and supermarkets only, and they account for just 15 percent of the total existing societies."

I asked, "What about chickens that sell for a price of 180 piasters a kilogram, which is more expensive than the private sector?"

He said, "Do not forget that we sell chickens which are subsidized under guidance with coupons at a price of 125 piasters a kilogram and that chickens which are sold at a price of 180 piasters a kilogram are also subsidized at a rate of about 12 piasters per kilogram, because the cost per kilogram is about 192 piasters."

I asked, "What about beans at 70 piasters?"

He said, "There is another kind which is subsidized at a price of 15 piasters per kilogram."

I said, "But it cannot be found."

He said, "Because there is an intense public response toward it and people buy it as soon as it appears."

11887

CSO: 4504/267

EGYPT

GASOLINE CONSUMPTION PROBLEM DISCUSSED

Cairo CAIRO TODAY in English Apr 86 pp 27-29

[Article by Muriel Allen: "The Fill'er Up Blues"]

[Text] *Egypt was one of the only countries in the world where gasoline consumption rose last year. But now a combination of rising prices, more expensive cars and better roads is having an effect on sales at the pump. Marketers have told Muriel Allen that gasoline sales should continue to rise but at a slower rate than in the past.*

THERE ARE STRONG SIGNS THAT THE Egyptian gasoline-buying public is beginning to think twice before filling up their tanks. The country seems to be entering a new era of slower growth in the rate of gasoline consumption. If this trend which started in 1985 continues, it will help the government in its efforts to achieve energy conservation.

In the past decade more and more Egyptians have found it essential to have a car or a pickup, and the boom in car and truck sales fueled a rapid increase in the demand for gasoline. In fact, the gasoline market here is one of the few in the world that is still grow-

ing, according to spokesmen for private and public sector marketing companies. But this picture is changing.

There are at least three reasons why gasoline demand is dropping. The main factor, marketers agree, is the dramatic decrease in the number of imported vehicles. This began in January 1985 as a result of government regulations designed to protect the domestic car-manufacturing industry and led to import reductions of about 50 percent. The rise in the value of the dollar also has made cars too expensive for some people.

Another reason for reduced gasoline sales is the higher prices for gasoline at the pump, imposed last August. The price of 80-octane gasoline rose from 15 to 20 piasters per liter while the new 90-octane gas price went from 20 to 25 piasters.

Finally, improvements in roads and construction of many new flyovers in Cairo are cited by some marketers as a third factor contributing to the slowdown in gasoline purchases.

"The price increase is the least important of these factors. Most of the demand for gasoline in Egypt is inelastic. People have to drive to get to work and for business reasons," said Loutfi Mazhar, general manager of Esso Standard, one of two private companies marketing gasoline in Egypt. The price rise may be affecting the discretionary segment of the market, but this doesn't represent a high percentage of total increasing demand."



Abdel Latif Waked, first undersecretary at the Ministry of Petroleum, added, "The price increase had only a minor effect on gas demand. Limiting the number of new cars entering the market is the chief factor. We also think that gasoline demand may be reaching the saturation point.

"The government had hoped the price increase would have a major effect on demand and that, as a result, there would be more oil available for export. But it seems a five-piaster raise

is not enough to have such an effect," Mr. Waked added. The undersecretary is the government's official spokesman for the two public sector gasoline marketing companies, Misr Petroleum and The Cooperative Company.

Hazem Zein el Abedin, general sales manager of Mobil Oil Egypt, thinks the price increases have played a role in cutting consumption. "When people have to pay LE 10 to fill their tanks, they start to buy less. Previous price increases started from such a low base

they didn't affect consumer buying habits. Since November 1985 people have started changing their driving habits to save gasoline."

Egyptian consumption of gasoline has risen steadily from 1.2 million tons in the 1980-81 fiscal year to almost 1.9 million tons in 1984-85, the latest figure available from the Ministry of Petroleum.

After growing rapidly since 1978, gasoline demand started to level off in 1981-82 when the vehicle population in Egypt began to reach the saturation point. This was the first turning point in changing gas-demand patterns. Since 1985, the downward trend has set in, marking the start of a second phase in the public's move toward lower gas consumption.

Discussions with marketers indicate that the industry-wide growth rate dropped to nine percent in the first half of 1985 and that it fell again in early 1986 to between six and seven percent,

where it now stands.

"I think demand will keep going down. Everyone is revising their estimates. By the end of 1986 the rate of increase in demand probably will stabilize at four or five percent and stay there for some time," Mr. Abedin of Mobil predicted.

The introduction of the 90-octane gasoline "unfortunately didn't meet the expectations of the industry. People probably didn't feel the need to switch because they got used to average octane gas," noted Mr. Mazhar. "I personally use 90-octane, and a lot of

people do, but it still represents only seven percent of total sales."

Even though the growth rate is slowing, a new company is entering the gasoline market with its own stations. Caltex, which has been selling a wide range of petroleum products for more than 40 years through the Cooperative Company, plans to open its first station later this year. It has already bought land in Maadi and on the Pyramids Road, according to a company spokesman.

"Caltex is a welcome addition to the market," said Loutfi Mazhar of Esso. "Its entry reaffirms the government's encouragement of foreign investment in the petroleum products field."

Egyptian General Petroleum produces and distributes gasoline to the marketing companies, and the gas is sold at a uniform price throughout the country. The government forecasts

demand for refined products based on estimated requirements given by the marketers, and then it creates a refinery program to satisfy domestic demand.

After the gas is received at marketers' terminals, it is delivered to retail outlets by trucks. If the delivery distance is within 20 kilometers of the terminal, the marketer bears the cost of transport. But for deliveries beyond 20

kilometers, EGPC assumes all transport expenses. So the government is subsidizing gasoline transport to a great extent, private marketers said.

"All marketers get a very small discount of six millimes per liter from EGPC; however, a lot of this goes to the dealer. We feel Mobil's operating expenses have gotten so high that this margin is no longer rewarding, and we keep trying to have the discount increased, but EGPC disagrees," Mr. Abedin said. "However, we recognize that keeping the discount low is in the national interest."

The same discount has been in effect for 22 years. Marketers said in earlier years it provided them with a reasonable profit. But the Mobil official pointed out that today, in some areas when the marketer transports the gas, he makes no profit.

The government gives priority to the refined-product needs of the inland market over exports so that Egyptians will not be affected by the recent cut in crude production due to the world oil glut and falling prices.

Egypt's refineries are concentrated in the Delta at Alexandria, Suez and Tanta and at Cairo, but a new refinery is scheduled to be in operation by the

end of 1987 at Assiut to supply gasoline and other products to Upper Egypt.

All refineries are connected by pipelines so if there is a shortfall in one area supplies can be provided by another refinery. Mr. Abedin said there is always a surplus at the Alexandria refinery, so that in addition to supplying part of Lower Egypt and Cairo, it sometimes ships products to Upper Egypt to fill shortages.

A new pipeline to serve Upper Egypt is under construction. It will extend from Cairo through Beni Suf and Minya to Assiut. Another new pipeline is planned to move crude from the Gulf of Suez to the Assiut refinery for processing.

"Gasoline is the only petroleum product sold here at near its real value. Kerosene and gas oil (diesel fuel) are sold at one-eighth or one-ninth of their real value, so there is a definite loss here," Mr. Abedin said.

"Egypt exports naphtha which is used to make gasoline. Since the domestic price increases for gasoline, the inland retail gas price is competitive with the naphtha export prices. This means the government has taken a brave step to remove the subsidy almost entirely on gasoline," he added.

But it will be much more difficult politically for the government to lower the big subsidies on gas oil and kerosene, the Mobile official said, since many users of these products are less able to afford higher prices than are owners who buy gasoline.

Gas Oil is used primarily by trucks carrying commercial goods but also by power generating stations and some industries. Its retail price is a mere three piasters per liter. Its real price reflecting the cost of bringing it to market should be 22 piasters per liter, in Mr. Abedin's opinion. Perhaps the chief reason the government does not hike gas oil prices is that such an increase

would be passed on to many other sectors of the economy, sparking a spiral of price rises for public and private transportation and numerous end products, marketers agreed.

Mr. Mazhar of Esso pointed out that the gas oil market has been growing faster percentage-wise than the gasoline market, around 14 percent in recent years. But because some power stations have switched to natural gas, "gas oil demand was negative in 1985, and I expect demand to be stagnant again this year," he said.

"We import a lot of gas oil. This is our biggest problem area among refined products. The Ministry of Petroleum has hoped for years that gas oil prices would be increased to cut consumption, which we estimate has been rising by 12 percent annually, but this is a political decision," Mr. Waked said. In 1984-85 Egypt imported about 1.3 million tons of gas oil.

Mr. Waked pointed out that gas oil also is used by Nile tugboats, the railroads, and extensively in the

agricultural sector "where everyone is trying to switch from using animals to machines."

Currently there are some 950 gasoline stations in Egypt, and the government is encouraging the construction of new outlets. About 95 percent of all stations are dealer operated because the dealer's expenses are more easily controlled than company operated stations, so this arrangement reduces the cost of operation, Mr Abedin said.

"The four marketing companies try to increase the number of stations by 50 each year. There is a shortage of stations everywhere, but the most severe shortages are in the countryside. The cost of land in Cairo is too high to justify our building more in the city,"

Mr. Abedin said.

Mr. Waked believes that more stations are needed in Cairo, but he said "land is too expensive in the city to distribute a six-millime product." Cairo accounts for about 50 percent of the total gasoline market.

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EGYPT

WRITER STATES CASE AGAINST ISLAMIC GOVERNANCE, CRITICS REPLY

Statement by Writer Fudah

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Feb-Mar 86 pp 29-31

[Article by Faraj Fudah; Editorial Introduction by AL-I'TISAM]

[Text] My dear reader:

Herewith are the reply by Dr Faraj 'Ali Fudah, author of the book "Before the Fall," to Dr Muhammad Abu al-Makarim Qandil, and a commentary by Dr Muhammad Abu al-Makarim to Dr Fudah's reply.

We would have liked Dr Fudah to be truthful with himself and with people, to express his real thinking and to enter into issues directly from his original ideological premise, but the doctor clad truth in falsehood and elected to express an odd, strange platform which is not suited to people who possess a true degree in scholarship.

Had Dr Fudah been a searcher after the truth truly and out of conviction, he would not have written any of what he wrote, and if he had intended the truth only he would not have become implicated in his severe errors and contradictions, which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Subh revealed in his valuable book "The Frenzied Rush before the Fall and the Fall of the Man of the Fall."

Dr Faraj 'Ali Fudah preferred to proceed without guidance and talk without knowledge. He erred concerning the rights of Islam and the rights of Moslems. We hope the almighty creator will guide him and us and put his feet along the road of righteousness and correctness, but we advise him to console himself with those who seek the truth through research, sincerity and conviction. Perhaps he will see models to emulate in the life stories of some of his contemporaries such as Mustafa Mahmud, Tariq al-Bishri and Muhammad 'Imarah. People who are truly seeking the truth do not hesitate to yield to it and believe in it without that in any way diminishing their powers.

We had basically hoped that Dr Faraj 'Ali Fudah would direct himself to his basic area of specialization, which is agriculture, as he claims, and with

people conduct research into solutions to the limited area of the agricultural land, the improvement and marketing of agricultural production, increases in the wheat crop, the coverage of Egypt's requirements for it, and so on. This is a basic task of the true Moslem, especially if he is a specialist, rather than rendering judgments without knowledge, entering into specialized areas and descending to language we are too chaste to describe, which he has quoted from a person who has "seven trades," not one of which does him honor, certainly.

The day Dr Faraj 'Ali Fudah conducts a serious reading regarding the learning of Islam and returns to the truth, we will welcome him as a writer and researcher; how cherished this is to God.

[Signed] AL-I'TISAM.

Dr Muhammad Ahmad 'Ashur

Editor in Chief of AL-I'TISAM magazine:

Good greetings, and finally:

I read in AL-I'TISAM magazine (numbers two and three, August-September 1985, 47th year) a four-page article (pages 30-33) titled "When the Person of the Fall Has Fallen," which you referred to on the cover page -- perhaps because of its importance, from your viewpoint, perhaps because it is a model of the style of dialogue, from your viewpoint also, or perhaps to promote your magazine by publishing the picture of a writer who respects himself and his pen and publishing the title of a book which was the one that had the highest circulation this year, God knows best. In the next issue (numbers four and five, November-December 1985, 47th year), a conclusion of the previous article was published on three pages (28-30) with the promise that the answer would be published in the same spot.

In application of the law and in performance of your promise, I ask you to publish the accompanying answer in the same place and space and to refer to it in the same manner as the article being answered was referred to.

Be so kind as to accept the utmost regards,

[Signed] Dr Faraj 'Ali Fudah.

The magazine AL-I'TISAM published two violent articles (as is its custom) in response to the book "Before the Fall," which it filled with expressions that do not provoke anger so much as they inspire amazement, put under headlines describing me as a sort of "outcast of the Wafd" and "enemy of Islamic law," expressions which indicate the high morals which some people who flaunt Islamic law enjoy, and ended with expressions in which it pointed out "Time still reveals to us the intentions of those people who know no inviolability of religion, integrity of thought or honor of statements." The person who wrote these words (who, by the logic of opposites, is assumed to be honorable of statements and possess integrity of thought), is Dr Muhammad Abu al-Makarim Qandil.



The writer of the articles reminds me of "a day when I entered into the full rush of elections and saw my friends on the street heading the list of the ideas they embrace with hopes for the application of Islamic law." It sorrows me to remind him that I have not yet entered into the full rush of any elections and did not run in the last elections under the banner of any party, since I resigned from the Wafd on 26 January 1984. That was a written resignation with cause, and material was published about it on whose basis it is not right to describe me as an "outcast of the Wafd," because a person submitting a resignation is casting out and not an outcast -- unless we are talking about the fall of the language or the deterioration of the language. Here I rely for evidence on the people who wrote the title through prior knowledge and articulate expression.

Once again, the writer, in his comment on the expression "Yes to the holy book and religion, no to the sword and governance," wonders, I say wonders, "Why has the word 'sword' been crammed in here?" To him I give the answer that I am thereby responding to the people who raise the slogan "Islam is holy book and sword," a slogan which the writer knows the Moslem Brothers have raised since their appeal came into being in 1928. The accusation of cramming in the sword is attributable to them and a refutation of them. The paragraph which was mentioned on the cover of the book is an appeal for separation, not for commingling, removal, not cramming in; it is an appeal to people who see in Islam only a drawn sword which, if it hurts them, they turn into a vicious tongue. To me Islam is dearer and it in fact is more merciful and by its nature is more generous.

The writer proceeds to add, debate and offer a refutation with respect to a phrase I cited concerning my conviction that religion is one of the bases of society and my rejection at the same time of the commingling of religion with the affairs of politics and government, stressing that we are "all happy with the teaching of religion in the schools, God's verses read out over the media, the celebration of religious occasions and respect and veneration for the men of religion." The writer seized on that by taking points out of context and uttering ridicule, and discussed it through the idea "Does religion in your view, Sir, mean that you should be happy with religious celebrations?" "Does the fact that your children learn the principles of religion gladden you?" He did not fail to make the slanderous remark of describing me as "the researcher and religious jurist Mr Faraj Fudah," then burst out in denunciation with the phrases "governance by divine right, religious governance, men of religion," stressing that the society of Moslems knew only "scholars of religion" and that these scholars did not strive for governance or tutelage. Regarding tutelage, he said, "the beginning of it is peace, the middle of it is censure and the end of it is the rebuke of judgment day." That is a phrase put in internal rhyme, and is not a tradition of the prophet or eloquent saying, but is a melodious statement along the lines of "were it not for blame, oh were it not for blame." After that he makes amends, in order to leave the door open to the notion of Islamic governance or government by Islam by saying "This is as far as people who are its guardian go, out of love for it, not the desire to establish justice." He describes his conception of Islamic rule by saying "It has become the unanimous view that the governance of Moslems should belong to those who are capable and competent and can carry the burdens and responsibilities of governance,

being patient and anticipating reward, arbitrating by God's platform and guided by the jurisprudence of the scholars who belonged to this nation in regard to all the aspects of life." Let me pause here to debate the researcher and religious jurist Mr Muhammad Qandil, stating to him the following:

First of all, the whole book is a discussion of politics and the world, not a discussion of religion and belief. It discusses the notion of separating religion from the affairs of politics and governance but that does not mean that it demands that religion be separated from the state and the affairs of life. It demands that the other party to the discussion refute this through argumentation and logic.

Second, the requisite argumentation and the logic of confrontation are embodied in your continuing to call for an Islamic religious state. You must offer a political program for it which will discuss fundamental and peripheral matters and will address itself to the issues of the economy, housing, wages and prices while at the same time addressing itself to general issues such as the regime, the method by which the ruler assumes power and the method for dismissing him if he turns away from propriety. This is something I do not imagine the learned jurist is knowledgeable about, or regarding which he has the command to speak. If he does, then welcome and greetings to him, he must make the statement and we must reply, by accepting and offering approval, or else -- I do not want to anticipate events.

Third, I have mentioned an obvious fact, which is that the experiences of the countries around us, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan and the Sudan in al-Numayri's era, do not support what he is advocating; they support what I am advocating. My testimony was clear and presented in detail through the experience of the Sudan, which our lofty scholars were jubilant about, and proved this by citations and names. The scholar and religious jurist Qandil must answer me on this subject. The answer will not go beyond one or two things: either these experiences violate the proper context of Islam, or all, some or one of them represent the proper model of the Islamic state. There is an answer to every answer.

Fourth, the researcher and religious jurist has followed a course which I warned about in my book, when he attributed all the problems we are involved with to alienation from the application of God's law (Page 30, second article). I can quote my answer to that from my book (Page 21), where I pointed out "Matters of politics must not be preoccupied with the superficiality, disdain for things and excessive misuse of evidence with which they are preoccupied now. It might be permissible for us to take the good things with which people are graced as a curse, and the evil that comes to them as a test, but to apply these rulings to the affairs of state and matters of politics is a grievous error. The person who says so might perhaps be reversing himself for me, bringing to what he says the opposite of what he intended and something other than what he meant. It is in the capacity of someone who turns (and does not penetrate into) the pages of the papers to find many examples of what I have mentioned, and, like me, not understand what motive there was for a major proselytizer to slake his thirst for revenge over the killing of a former president, mentioning that the assassination was divine vengeance and forgetting that that can be answered by a

question which on the surface is naive but within which is an argument, concerning his statement regarding the assassination of the upright caliphs. If our defeat in 1967 was divine wrath, what is one to say about Israel's victory? Is that conversely God's contentment? And if the deterioration in the standard of living in our country is anger from God over abandonment of his true law, what can one say about the rise in the standard of living in the countries of the West? I can continue to address the reader on the subject of questions which mean nothing except that we should be amazed by the expression of judgments without contemplation and judgment over things without arbitration by the intelligence. Not all bad things are anger or a curse; rather, they are things whose causes it is easy to analyze if they issue forth from an individual or a group, and which it is easy to confront through intelligent solutions if there is a confrontation. Meanwhile this does not detract from or add to our faith and we do not evade confronting problems by the easiest of means, by which I mean making assignment to divine will, the submission to which and to the power of which must rise above these interpretations. We have an example in the year of the ash and we have an example in 'Amwas' plague, both of which occurred in the era of 'Umar. 'Umar was 'Umar and his era was the era which stood above the suspicion that God was angry with his devout worshippers. We can also take a calm pause for reflection with those who everytime harm or straits befall us cry out that this is God's punishment for our abandonment of his holy law, which, had we applied it, would have turned our harm into good and our straits into wealth, pointing out to them that their argument entails much illusion and that it can be refuted by the statement that the application of Islamic law issues forth from the desire to apply it, not from the quest for wealth or welfare by means of it, and that it is easy to explain what is happening in our times as a result of causes which might be related to inadequacy in the system of government or inadequacy in adopting the best methods, which are two things for which you cannot find a solution if you are harsh regarding the affairs of the world (unless you neglect in your spirit the greatest thing religion advocates, which is the conscience). In brief, the former is one thing and the latter is another.

A final word remains, directed to the researcher and religious jurist:

You have exhausted yourself in writing and have exhausted me in replying, but we have not arrived at a single statement together, perhaps because I have rendered judgment through the mind, which is a mode of rendering judgment that is difficult for some people. How I would have liked it had you devoted your effort, in view of the benefits to Islam and the Moslems that would entail, to the attempt to offer a political program for the religious state you envision, a constitution regulating its affairs, a solution to the juridical disputes concerning the ruler and whether or not he is to be from the tribe of Quraysh or concerning consultation and whether that is binding or not, and other things which you are evading, and everyone is evading, in order to opt for what is easy, that is, to opt for making assignments, not for the mind, and repudiation, not thinking.

Force me to accept an argument if you wish, religious jurist, and answer the foregoing; let me prepare for what will come, if I can. Answer the examples in Islamic history that have been cited in the book. I do not imagine that



you would deny them. As to the editors of the magazine who have chosen the titles of the two articles, I direct calm words to them:

If it is a matter of going to excess in speech, a decline in language or defamatory usage, expect only punishment that is commensurate with the deed. If it is a matter of Islam, then I declare that Islam has continued to be, and will continue to be, before you and after you, the religion of tolerance, love and the advocacy of that which is the best. If it is a matter of politics, you have entered into an arena in which you are not a proficient figure and whose methods you do not command, on top of which you do not have mastery over its idiom. If it is a matter of progress in society, this will not be by using a small stick for brushing one's teeth, applying powder to the eyes, carrying the veil of the impregnable fortress and repeating statements that have been handed down or put in prose such as "were it not for blame," as you had previously stated, and as I answered. The instruments of progress are knowledge, not mysticism, the study of the actual conditions of the age, not evasion of it, work, not the emission of smoke, and other things that I believe I will find scope to guide you to some day, as long as your discussion goes on and our dialogue continues, and I pray God that it will not be interrupted and that no habit of yours will be interrupted, and that he will guide you to the proper road.

[Signed] Faraj Fudah.

#### Islamic Legal Society Response

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Feb-Mar 86 p 31

[Text] We have received this statement from the executive committee of the main Society of Islamic Law in Cairo in response to what was published in the previous issue of AL-I'TISAM, directed to his eminence the lofty professor Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif al-Mushtahari, the general chairman of the main society of Islamic law, to take measures with respect to a lawyer who claims he is a member of the Society of Islamic law and he is still deputy chairman of the board of one of its branches in Cairo and boasts of the nickname "the bearded Communist," which he considers an honor and a badge, especially since he uses the newspaper of the Communists in Egypt, AL-AHALI, in order to emit his poisons from it, deceiving people about their religion and belittling their minds, giving them the illusion that he can combine his membership in a Marxist party which takes atheism as a watchword with his membership in a group which approves all divine revelations and believes in God as a lord, Islam as a religion and Muhammad, on whom be God's prayers and peace, as a prophet and messenger. Herewith is the text of the statement:

A Clarification from the Society of Islamic Law:

Editor in chief of AL-I'TISAM magazine:

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Following which, praise be to God, whose aid and forgiveness we seek, in whom we believe and in whom we trust. Prayers and peace be upon the noblest of messengers, our master Muhammad, and on all his people and companions. We have read what AL-I'TISAM

magazine published in its issue of January 1986 in the form of a letter sent to the chairman of the society concerning a person who claims to belong to a branch of the Islamic Law Society in Cairo but nonetheless allows himself to flaunt the nickname "the bearded Communist" and supports the regime of Babrak Karmal, the Afghan Communist and president appointed by the Russian occupation forces.

In response to this letter we state, and the granting of success comes through God:

The Society of Islamic Law is founded on a basis of Islam and strives earnestly to realize its objectives wisely and through good exhortation and to follow the sayings and doings of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, in word, deed and stipulation. Proceeding from this position, it does not endorse Communism and Communists, and does not permit Communists to belong to it through any of its branches. What the Society of Islamic Law has expressed is what every Moslem Egyptian who loves his religion and nation has expressed. It intends to unmask this imposter and carry out the necessary investigation into him regarding the charges that have been attributed to him. These conflict with the principles of the Society of Islamic Law, which it derives from the book, the sayings and doings of the prophet and its charter, which does not permit membership in any political party.

With respect to fraternal Afghanistan, it is the duty of every Moslem to join forces with the Moslem Afghan people against the Soviet Communist invasion and to help the Afghan fighting men in their heroic holy war and great sacrifices with everything they can, materially and morally, so that victory over the Communists will be realized and the banner of Islam will rise high and flutter over the areas of fraternal Moslem Afghanistan. "Those who believe, if you side with God he will side with you and implant your feet."

May God preserve the Moslem Afghan people, purge their land of the filth of the loathesome Russian occupation and bless their holy war against the invaders. May God preserve the Moslem people of Egypt from imposters and the advocates of atheism.

God is most great and to him, his prophet and the devout be the glory. However, the hypocrites do not know.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Chairman of the executive committee

Of the main Society of Islamic law.

Writer Rebuts Fudah's Criticism

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Feb-Mar 86 pp 32, 33

[Article by Muhammad Abu al-Makarim Qandil]

[Text] The issue of "nobility of word and purity of thought" is founded on motives and goals. If the motive is to protect the nation's sacred



possessions, be zealous over the exemplary things in which it takes pride and protect its inviolate attributes, the word is noble and thought is pure.

Likewise, if the goal is noble, removed from caprice and deviation and absolved of any bias and subordination, the person possessing it is noble in word and pure of thought. This is nobility and this is purity. The truthful Moslem is committed to that, adopts it himself as word and deed, as thought and application, does not deviate from that and is not wayward, but rather continues in stability, far removed from error and deviation.

It is amazing that the researcher speaks again about "the holy book and the sword," as if he wants this Moslem society to put down its weapons and wants to strip it of all this nation's means of defense and protection, so that its territory will be open to depredation and its honor will be defiled, and the people who are not driven from it may have designs on it. The person who claims to be proud of belonging to Islam forgets this, that the people who believe in this religion consider that arranging power is one of this religion's obligations and a major support in the building of Islamic society. "And prepare for them the power you can."

Arranging power, in the view of Islam, is terrorizing the adversary and imparting fear to the enemies. This entails arranging security and affirming peace, because anyone who is afraid of you and is terrified of you will not think of aggression against you. What has prevented the outbreak of a destructive world war to this day but the fear and terror which dominate the spirits of the two camps fighting one another in the East and West, because each of them is afraid and terrified of the other? If one of the two camps reaffirms its competence and ability to make a lethal blow, annihilation and destruction will be this world's lot.

The sword, in the thinking of an aware Moslem society, has not been and will not be directed at anyone or any group belonging to this society, because one of the characteristics of this society is mutual compassion for its children and fraternity among its members. "Muhammad is the prophet of God and those who are with him are more intensely merciful among themselves than the infidels." Intensity does not come about without preparation, and instilling fear does not come about without deterrent weapons. How can a Moslem's negation of the sword, "the symbol of strength and preparation," issue forth from him? How can he try to strip Moslem society of deterrent strength then realize security for the society and protect belief and sovereignty of the land and the nation?

It is a grievous blunder for the "compassionate and all-merciful" researcher to claim "talk about mercy in the world of today is closer to the heart, and the road to tolerance is more closely linked to the conscience?" Where are mercy and tolerance in the world of today? In what land have they appeared? By whose hand have they been realized?

Who are these guides who have spread this mercy about and realized this tolerance in the world of today?

Are they the Russians, who have sought to realize mercy and tolerance on the land of Afghanistan by eliminating a peaceful, isolated people who have no

strength or power and whom they have surfeited with killing, abuse and dis-possession? Is this mercy in the world of today?

Are they the Americans, whose fleet cruises about the Mediterranean, warning and threatening, striking and roaming about at will, flaunting the trappings of tyranny and despotism? Is this mercy and tolerance in the world of today?

Are they the Jews who are spilling the blood of Arabs and Moslems every day, on every land, threatening and scheming to strike out near and far? Is this mercy, is this tolerance in the world of today?

The fact which always proclaims itself is that we are living in a world which arrives at mutual understanding through tooth and nail. If you wish, say "It deals with iron and fire," and if you are fair, say, "It threatens one another with calamity and destruction!"

After that, Mr Faraj, you ask us for "mercy and tolerance," yes; we are mutually merciful and tolerant among ourselves. That is something obvious, which has been established in the conscience of Moslem society and whose effects have appeared in transactions among its people.

As for mercy and tolerance toward those who are lying in ambush against us and are sharpening knives to slaughter us, and those who are harboring perfidy and preparing to deliver the coup de grace against us, that is a statement which only this nation's enemy, who wants its people to be sheep at the tables of wolves, would make!

The political program the researcher is advocating is something which provokes amazement and inspires wonderment.

How can a man of research and penetrating vision say and ask for this, if flaws and defects in the history of the Moslems are unremitting and he has not come upon any form of order in Islam in the course of this research? How can he permit himself, if he is an intelligent researcher, to keep his research restricted to the flaws and evils in the Moslems' history, when he has not talked to us about Islamic civilization and the virtue it possessed for mankind in the world, after a long night, and a base, exhausting effort, although fair people who are non-Moslems have praised this and recorded it, out of fairness to the truth and history?

It is honesty of research, unbiased commitment and "wisdom" for us to mention matters which are in favor of and against something. We should present the good things and the evil, the virtuous and the odious it entails. For us to enumerate bad points, though, and seek out what is evil and odious, is a kind of injustice and a sort of caprice and unfairness. An intelligent researcher will hold himself above such a mixup and confusion. The subject of choosing a ruler and the method for this choice is no longer one problem or another in the view of Moslems. Rather, what is taken into consideration is the ruler's support and backing, society's partisanship toward him and those behind him if he has been righteous and just, presenting advice to him and guiding him to hear the word of truth if he has been partial, tyrannical or unjust. Therefore of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him,

it has been stated that he said, "The best holy war is the word of truth in the presence of a tyrannical ruler." A nation's condition will not be set in order unless its affairs are founded on what is right, which is said and responded to, as the one who distinguishes truth from falsehood, 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab, may God's satisfaction be upon him, stipulated: "There is nothing good within you if you have not said it, and nothing good within us if we have not heard it."

Islam's stipulation of equality and freedom in its various forms, ideological, intellectual and social, is not a secret to what is happening in Islam!

Perhaps, sir, you know the extent of respect for man that Islam has attained, whatever his kind or nature, his opinion or thought might be: "We have given respect to the sons of Adam, have borne them on land and sea, have given them sustenance from good things and have truly preferred them to many whom we have created." It restored consideration to the Coptic Egyptian, who took his due from the son of the man who governed Egypt at that time, 'Amr Ibn al-'As. 'Amr was subjected to a kind of contempt for what his son had committed, on the argument that he was the son of the most noble, and to the statement of 'Umar, the one who distinguished between good and evil, "'Amr, when did you seek to enslave people, when their mothers gave birth to them as free men?" All this stresses to us that the system of Islam is worthy of ruling the earth and realizing for men the freedom, sovereignty, security and peace they hope for.

The "man of the fall" refuses to repudiate all this, denies it wrongfully and jealously and adopts party incidents, errors and mistakes which others besides him adopted before him. Or should we be of good will and say that he has preoccupied himself with reciting them and should not have done that, as he is the "intelligent" researcher, then makes that a basis for his overall judgment which he has issued and to which he still doggedly adheres? Perhaps the researcher has forgotten, or has pretended to forget, that many vindictive unavenged people who have mobilized their thinking and their pens in order that they may pursue defects and slips have constantly done that sort of thing. What the researcher has come up with is not new.

The researcher refuses but to go back to tormenting Islam with the acts of deviation of Moslems who are imposters in its regard, considers that the experience of the Sudan bears witness to him and supports what he claims, and asks us for an opinion regarding this experience.

Once again, we tell him:

When was judgment made on principles and systems through the conduct of people affiliated with them who made assertions regarding them?

Is this to be considered proper in the view of scholars of research, or is that a kind of sophistry and a sort of confusion and deception?

Who told you that al-Mumayri was sincere in what he declared and claimed? How can that be reconciled with the blameworthy effort he made of moving the Falasha to Israel?

How has the solemn trust of research permitted you to put this comparison in the framework of "Islamic legislation?"

God's advice, "doctor," does not confuse deviant acts of Moslems with the system of Islam, the ultimate religion of mankind.

The researcher returns once again to grievous error. No fair person has said, or says, that if a society establishes God's law, its life will be devoid of problems or that no plague will descend upon it. No such thing appeared in my statement, because all people, those who are devout and those who are infidels, those who are pious and those who are profligate, those who are unifiers and those who are apostate, are all subject to the law of existence, and good and evil fates befall them. The Moslems all repeat the statement of almighty God, "We try you with evil and good for a testing." The holy Koran addresses the prophet of God, on whom be God's prayers and peace, "The good things that have afflicted you are from God and the evil things that have afflicted you are from yourself." What you say and what you attribute to the proponents of Islam is mere slander and audacity. Trust in God regarding yourself, your religion, which you are proud of, your nation, your homeland and the statement for which you will be held to account before God, to whom nothing on earth or in heaven is secret.

Peace be upon those who follow guidance and those who are truthful in their advice.

[Signed] Muhammad Abu al-Makarim Qandil

11887

CSO: 4504/282



MOROCCO

ANDALUSIAN PREDICTS ATTACK ON CEUTA, MELILLA, DOUBTS NATO HELP

Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 11 Mar 86 p 7

[Article by Alvaro Vega]

[Text] Cordoba—Julio Anguita, the Communist Party of Andalusia's candidate for president of the Board of Andalusia, has predicted that Morocco will attack the Spanish territories of Ceuta and Melilla after it wins the war in the former Spanish Sahara and that NATO will not respond to this act of war.

"If Morocco defeats the Polisario Front, the 150,000 soldiers who are in the Sahara will turn against Ceuta and Melilla," were the exact words of the former mayor of Cordoba. He also asserted that NATO would not come to Spain's defense, based on the precedent on Algeria, which in his view prompted France to withdraw from the military organization of the Atlantic Alliance.

Anguita made these remarks at a meeting attended by some 700 persons in the open air Municipal Theater in Cordoba. Also speaking was the deputy secretary general of the PCE, Enrique Curiel.

Citing a wealth of facts and figures and seeking to point up the PSOE's turnaround from its previous stand, the Communist candidate for the presidency of the board called on the audience to become "agitators and propagandists for a no vote" if they left the gathering convinced that this was the right decision.

Elaborating on the similarity between France in Algeria and Spain in Ceuta and Melilla, Julio Anguita indicated that "NATO did not help General de Gaulle against the Algerians because it was north Africa, which is where Ceuta and Melilla are." He went on to say that "the claim that NATO is going to defend them is a lie." He cited an article in the Treaty of Washington that describes an attack on European or American territory as an attack on the allies as a whole.

8743

CSO: 3548/39



BAHRAIN

RULER DEPLORES ARAB WORLD CONFLICTS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Mar 86 p 24

/Article by Nash'at al-Taghlibi: "Disputes Have Eliminated All Arab Cooperation and Terrorism Has Stripped Man of His Values"/

/Text/ Next 16 December, Bahrain, in the Arab Gulf, will be celebrating the silver anniversary of Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah's assumption of rule.

Shaykh 'Isa acceded to the government in 1961 in the wake of the death of his father, Shaykh Salman Ibn Hamad Al Khalifah. His was one of the most difficult tasks to face a young ruler in an area brimming over with nationalistic zeal and swept by aspirations to eliminate the effects of colonialism and the protectorate in the region and at the same time to eliminate the elements of divisiveness which the colonialists had sowed among the various sheikhdoms of the Gulf, which had become the object of many people's designs because of the oil resources their territories contained.

Although Bahrain now has the smallest share of oil resources among Gulf countries, its prime concern has been rapid expansion in the context of education and the media and the patient and thoughtful implantation of the roots of democratic rule, "because leaps forward often lead to the opposite of the goal sought from them, especially in a country which has not yet rid itself of the colonialist presence."

To carry out this principle, Bahrain established the first broadcasting station in 1955. It was the first country to be interested in workers' affairs and issue a labor law, and it was the first country to establish a ground communications station (1969), making it the base and foundation for telecommunications in the region.

It is well known that when Shaykh 'Isa declared Bahrain's independence in the wake of Britain's decision to withdraw from the Gulf in 1971, Iran's designs on it were mobilized and it claimed that Bahrain was one of its ancient possessions. It raised a tempest of threats, but the United Nations intervened, on the one hand, and King Faysal, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, put pressure on the Shah on the other, in addition to the

nationalist anger which swept the Gulf and compelled the Shah to relinquish provoking Bahrain, contenting himself, in principle, with the Island of Abu Musa (which belonged to the emirate of Sharjah) and the two islands of Greater and Lesser Tumbs (belonging to the emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah). The occupation of these islands continued, although the Shah fell and Khomeyni came to power under the slogan of the "Islamic revolution," which so far has spent more than 5 years in a war with Iraq!

When I came to Bahrain, the fighting between Iraq and Iran in al-Faw had reached its peak and Iran had started moving in the Gulf area, warning against continued support for Iraq and threatening "grievous consequences!" The disputes among the Arab countries were still at their most intense, and everything indicated that the national issues, foremost among them the Palestine cause, and the difficult conditions the Gulf countries were going through, would remain pending until the Arabs were given an opportunity to realize the seriousness of what they were doing and the dangers which resulted from what they were doing.

It was this subject, specifically, with which my meeting with Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the ruler of Bahrain, opened, when he was so gracious as to receive me at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers in Manamah.

Shaykh 'Isa said, "We are indeed sad over what is now going on the Arab countries with no connection to real causes. The disputes range over a broad scale and mutual understanding and cooperation, in their real sense, are totally lacking due to the basence of trust among the various parties. The matter has become more odious since the Arabs exchanged the use of arms, threats and terror for logical, democratic dialogue, to the point where it could be said that the Arab world is now living through the era of terror, and what terror! Brothers are killing brothers, to the point where man is now stripped of all value and is equal to nothing more than lead. It is natural, since this is the situation, that Arab rasources should become weak and of no account, and therefore lose their effective power! Why is all this happening! No one knows. The fact is that there are no basic reasons to justify what is happening. None of it goes beyond the framework of the internal situation.

"When frank speaking and frankness take this turn, people must try to look into the future and come upon some solution."

On this point, the emir of Bahrain said,

"There is no solution but for us to condemn disputes and struggles and return to our genuine Arab nature. That is the only solution which will restore us to cooperation and solidarity and make us a single hand in confronting the difficulties and dangers by which the sky of the Arab region is becoming overcast. The unfortunate experiences we have gone through have proved that the use of arms is no longer feasible. Indeed, it constitutes a burden on the Arab nation. Weapons are changing continuously and we as Arabs are

importing weapons but not using them to confront our enemies, because we are not in agreement over a unified policy, although it is cooperation that will make it possible for the Arabs to use their power, by which they can confront their enemies. I indeed hope that God will guide us to the proper path."

The conversation moved over to the uprising by some central security forces in Egypt. Shaykh 'Isa said: "I am most extremely sorry about what has happened. Egypt's stability is something we are greatly concerned about and the other Arab countries are concerned about it too because it is the basis of stability in the region. In any case, President Mubarak has declared his decision to turn the people responsible for what happened over to the courts so that justice may take its course, and he has promised to reveal the real motives after the judiciary investigation into the accused ends. Here, also, we state once again: it is necessary to put a decisive end to violence and all types of terrorism and to replace them with freedom of opinion, which will open the way for everyone to do what he must."

What one can note in the Gulf is that whenever discussion turns to struggles that flare up among Arab countries and bring a halt to their nation progress, this discussion automatically moves to the Gulf Cooperation Council. In some people's view, this council has not yet realized anything important for the Gulf countries. It has not even been able to give unity to criticism and it is gradually assuming the form on which the League of Arab States has ended up. However, it is clear that Shaykh 'Isa, the emir of Bahrain, has a different opinion on this subject. He says:

"The fact is that the Gulf Cooperation Council has taken a long stride and has achieved much. Perhaps the most important thing it has achieved is that it has implanted the bases of cooperation among the member countries in it and in other areas, and as a consequence of that has managed to evolve into a strong base for a Gulf takeoff, one which is expanding day after day and constantly increasing in influence and strength. If we hope for anything, we hope that the Arab countries will emulate what the Cooperation Council has achieved, that is, that actual cooperation will exist in the context of the whole Arab nation. Although the Cooperation Council has not yet managed to give unity to criticism among the countries of the Gulf, this unification is coming, there is no doubt about it, but it has not been given high priority. There have been more important priorities, in view of the circumstances we are facing, which have been discussed with care and on which decisions have been made which must be made. These decisions have been quickly accompanied by execution.

11887

CSO: 4404/298

BAHRAIN

PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES MEDIUM-RANGE OUTLOOK

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16-22 Apr 86 pp 36, 37

/Interview with Planning and Economy Minister Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi: "Some Banks Will Remain and Others Will Leave Bahrain"/

/Text/ The repercussions of the current economic circumstances the oil market in the world is going through continue to provoke the interest and pursuit of specialists. Bahrain has been known to be the economic center with the most organization, modernization and communication and this has made it represent the region's economic thermometer. Helping it in this is a system of massive banks and investment and tourist centers. In a conversation AL-MAJALLAH had with the Bahraini minister of planning and economy, Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, he shed light on economic and financial considerations in Bahrain.

/Question/ How is Bahrain remedying the present financial and economic crisis in the Arab market?

/Answer/ We in Bahrain started to consider the situation unstable in 1983, especially since we are not a country with a production surplus. Bahrain's oil production is directed internally and is about 45,000 barrels a day, in addition to our participation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Abu Sa'fah field, which is aid from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain in particular. Because our oil production is limited, the effect on us from what is happening in the world markets is also limited. The repercussions of the oil crisis on the oil price have been restricted to the country's income, and industry has not been affected.

/Question/ But some major industrial projects depend on the government. How great is this financial contraction on them?

/Answer/ In industrial projects we do not rely on spending by the government, and this prompts me to state that they have not been affected by what is going on. Steel is private sector and the government does not have a single piaster in it. The Bahraini government is contributing 20 percent of the capital in the new aluminum plant which was recently opened; the rest represents the total contribution of countries in the region. Partners will enter into the oil and aluminum industry who will assume the process of managing



the projects by means founded on commercial bases, and it will be up to their boards to seek the necessary money for expansion projects. Consequently, they are independent and make a profit.

### The Banking Sector

/Question/ Were you expecting a contraction in the banking sector?

/Answer/ The region which had been producing from 14 to 15 million barrels of oil a day is different from the region which is now producing 7 to 8 million barrels a day at a price equal to half the previous one. The Gulf Cooperation Council's income has dropped, as a consequence of oil conditions, from \$170 billion in 1981 to \$65 and perhaps \$45 billion. Without a doubt, this liquidity will affect banking activity.

/Question/ How great will the banking recession be?

/Answer/ It is important that we state the difference between the two classes which represent the banking sector in Bahrain. The first is the banking sector whose activity has grown, flourished and expanded alongside economic activity in Bahrain. This will proceed as it was. As to the second sector, represented by the banks of foreign units (offshore), these were established in Bahrain to create a financial market relying on the market of the whole area, and they came to 50 banks in number. These certainly will be affected, in addition to the banks which came with the financial prosperity; these are miscellaneous banks from various areas of the world and they might leave after the drop in oil revenues. Stable banks which have long-term plans for the future will remain strong. Few banks have been affected to this day, for in spite of the crisis the region is suffering from and the financial contraction which has plagued them for a short time. In spite of this, they will still be able to endure.

### After 5 Years

/Question/ What is your conception of Bahrain over the next 5 years?

/Answer/ Before talking about years to come and what we have achieved, it is important for us to review the past 10 years. First, we apportioned our concerns in a balanced manner. We were attentive to social services areas. Good health and educational services were provided and housing requirements were provided, all this on behalf of balance between social growth and economic growth, with attention that the concern not inundate one goal to the inconvenience of the other. Providing economic services also has social returns. The projects are connected to facilities such as roads, communications, ports, airports, electricity and water. In the light of these, it has been possible to devote attention to the industrial sector. We have developed, expanded and modernized the aluminum industry, since we were selling approximately 100 percent of our production to the industrial world as raw materials and today we have been able to process massive amounts in Bahrain.



Bahrain has also worked, like fraternal countries in the region, to devote attention to the oil industries through 60 percent participation in the refinery. We have also directed attention to gas processing and have established a plant to separate gas liquids and use the gas in industry, and it has a good income. We have also kept up with fraternal countries in establishing a plant for chemicals in participation with our brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. As a beginning, Bahrain is manufacturing steel pellets, in the hope that that will be a takeoff to a large steel industry in the framework of the whole region. We have achieved horizontal expansion in the three basic industries by adding new products, while being concerned to have the transition occur in stages.

#### Development of the Cooperation Council

/Question/ What is the status of development plans in the Gulf Cooperation Council?

/Answer/ The council countries' planning ministers have not set out plans. What the Cooperation Council has approved at the summit level are conceptions and general principles, and it leaves it up to each country to be guided by these in the course of execution. The memorandum the ministers of planning in the council prepared divided the program in three. It set out goals, recommended policies and left the methods of execution up to each country in ways it considered appropriate to its circumstances and resources. The goals were focussed on the need to diversify economies, and not rely on single income sources. As to the policies, these spelled out ways for realizing the goals, such as the role of the private sector, when it would start, the role of the public sector, when it would end in various areas, and means of execution. Tourist activity, for instance; these set out the importance of encouraging it and promoting it among the people of the Gulf. Another example is the development of the hotel industry and the need to have the private sector assigned the task of caring for it. The conceptions arose as views which were proposed as a goal and policy, and the method of execution was left up to each country.

#### Bahrain Is Still the Biggest Arab Financial Center

After some foreign financial institutions had taken the initiative of closing or reducing their centers in the country of Bahrain in 1984, some people imagined that this was evidence that a major recession had befallen one of the most prominent Bahraini industries, financial services.

Some people also imagined that the oil crisis would affect Bahrain, since it relied on oil for some of its income and on commercial activity in the region which is connected to oil revenues for some of the rest of it.

However, most evidence indicates that Bahrain is still the largest financial center in the Arab world. There, international financial institutions enjoy the best climate the financial market has known since these organizations left Beirut in the middle of the past decade.

What the figures show is that Bahrain, by developing its resources, has managed to reduce its income from oil to 60 percent. Along with that, Bahrain is still also maintaining the lowest inflation rate, which did not go beyond a mere 1 percent in 1984 and 1985. It also realized a financial surplus in its budget which came to more than 10 million Bahraini dinars (or the equivalent of \$4 million) in 1984. This surplus came at a time when most Arab countries were suffering from the problem of an abrupt deficit.

Bahraini success in the non-oil sector has not totally compensated for the deficit which it is expected will arise this year from the great decline in oil prices. Bahrain has limited oil reserves and expects that its oil production will decline, amounting to just 30,000 barrels a day by the end of this decade, 1990. Bahrain's income from its oil exports last year was less than \$1 billion.

In the industrial context, Bahrain's area, which comes to 662 square kilometers, inhabited by 373,000 people, constitutes an obstacle to large industries. The island's most conspicuous factory is the aluminum plant, whose productive capacity comes to 170,000 tons a year. The government of Bahrain has declared its intention to increase its capacity by one quarter in the course of an expansion which will cost \$80 million.

One of the most prominent events of this year, commercially, has been the opening of the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway, which is expected to increase Bahrain's tourist income and help stimulate economic activity between the two countries. The causeway has been opened in principle and it is expected that it will be officially toward the end of this year.

11887

CSO: 4404/298

ISRAEL

PROBLEMS IN ISRAELI-DRUZE PARTNERSHIP ANALYZED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST [Magazine] in English 4 Apr 86 pp 10, 12, 13

[Article by David Rudge: "Unequal Partners"]

[Text] THE DRUSE soldier walking jauntily along the main street in his home village of Daliat al-Carmel draws admiring glances from young girls. Village dignitaries and elders greet him like an old friend.

The 21-year-old paratrooper says he is proud to wear the uniform of the Israel Defence Forces and to play a part in defending his country. He personifies the Druse pact with the Jewish people - an allegiance which pre-dates the soldier and the State of Israel.

But now there are fears that the alliance, forged out of a common need for self-preservation and subsequently tempered in the flames of Israel's wars, may be in danger. A growing number of young Druse are openly questioning the value of three years' army service, which was made compulsory for them by a law passed in 1956, at the request of Druse leaders.

Some, unlike the young soldier, no longer see army service as a proud privilege, but rather an onerous obligation placed upon them without their consent. Recently there have been reports of Druse deserting their units and several cases of attempted draft-dodging - disturbing phenomena for members of a community which prides itself on its loyalty, honour and duty.

THE DRUSE alliance was initiated in the early 1930s between the Aburukan family of Usfiya village on Mount Carmel and members of the Jewish community. Others, notably from neighbouring Daliat al-Carmel, soon followed.

They were joined before, during and after the War of Independence by the remainder of the Druse within Israel's boundaries, including those who originally sided and fought with the Arabs. Despite some initial opposition, which has continued from certain quarters to the present day, and occasional outbursts of criticism, the pact has withstood the tests of fire and time.

Undoubtedly the toughest trial, and potentially the most damaging, was the Lebanon War. Israel's 70,000-strong Druse community was confronted with the dilemma of divided loyalties, to the State of Israel on the one hand and their Lebanese brethren on the other.

The previous government's initial policy of supporting the Phalangists, at the expense of the Lebanese Druse, created confusion and consternation in the ranks of the conformists, while arousing anger and bitterness among the more radical elements.

The bombardment of Lebanese Druse villages by the American battleship, USS New Jersey, exacerbated the predicament in which Israeli Druse involuntarily found themselves. Criticism manifested itself in vociferous demonstrations against Israeli and U.S. policy in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, the Druse kept faith with the alliance and honoured their commitments to the state. They paid the heavy price of 36 Druse lives lost in the war - a figure proportionately higher than the number of Jewish soldiers who fell in Lebanon.

The change in government policy

and the IDF's extraction from the Lebanese quagmire might have been expected to dispel the deep disquiet in the Druse sector. Instead it seems the opposite is happening. Druse dissatisfaction with their lot in Israel is apparently growing. Senior members of the community believe the burgeoning unrest may well jeopardize the future of the alliance, unless the underlying problems are soon solved.

Among the exponents of this prognosis is Druse Knesset Member Zeidan Atshi. He contends that cases of attempted draft-dodging, while still relatively few, are symptomatic of a deep-rooted malaise caused by what Druse feel is the discrimination they have suffered since the formation of the state.

He felt sufficiently concerned at what he sees as the potential dangers to Druse-Jewish relations to draft and to submit a detailed report on the matter to Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Atshi maintains that the Lebanon War has had a more far-reaching impact on the communal Druse psyche than the authorities realize, over and above the conflicts of interest created at the time. "In Lebanon we saw Druse fighting for control of their state and not just for the right to play a part in the running of national affairs," Atshi recently told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"We witnessed Druse, members of a minority community like ourselves, in decision-making positions in all levels of the Lebanese establishment. It made us, especially the younger generation, re-evaluate our position here, take stock of our achievements and our expectations for the future. Many did not like what they saw.

"So far we don't have a general in the IDF, a minister, a director-general of a government ministry or government-owned company, and the highest ranking Druse officer in the police force is a Rav Pakad – all this after 37 years of Druse service to the state.

"After comparing their [Lebanese Druse] position to ours, we came to the conclusion that despite our contribution to the defence of this country, we are a marginal minority," he asserted.

Atshi also said the number of Druse with professions – doctors, lawyers, academicians, engineers,

managers and the like – is small.

But isn't this at least partly due to Druse conservatism and the desire to adhere to traditional values?

According to Atshi and other leading members of the community, the burden of blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the government and its various agencies for failing to foster Druse advancement in all spheres.

Yet the Druse have benefited from their alliance with the Jewish people. They live in peace and relative prosperity, many in the villas which have sprouted in their villages over the years.

THERE ARE two Druse MKs, Atshi himself (Shinui) and Amal Nasser e-Din (Likud), giving what some would describe as fair and proportional representation in accordance with the size of the Druse population.

Some Druse have also attained authoritative positions in the civil service and local government, while others hold senior ranks in the army, police and Border Police. There are also two Druse magistrates court judges in Haifa and Acre.

Despite the small populations of the 17 Druse villages, nine of them have local council status with the accompanying benefits and headaches. The largest, Daliat al-Carmel, with a population of 11,000, has a flourishing market – a popular attraction for Israeli and foreign tourists. Druse also have their own, autonomous religious courts.

So what, the cynics might ask, have the Druse got to complain about? The answer, it seems, can be summarized in one word: inequality.

Yes, say the Druse, there are many villas in the settlements; but what about the infrastructure? None of the villages is connected to the national sewage network, and the majority do not even benefit from a local sewage system.

Most houses have septic tanks nearby, or simply holes in the ground where the sewage is piped. These holes have to be covered when full and new ones dug. Drainage systems in most of the villages consist of open gutters, or the water is simply allowed to flow down the narrow streets.

Daliat al-Carmel, for example, has no public toilet to cater to the thousands of visitors who flock there

every week. Part of the fault, the Druse there admit, is the result of bickering between businessmen and the local council. But the fundamental cause, they maintain, is the lack of state assistance.

What is the value, they argue, of having local councils if they don't have the wherewithal to provide even these basic amenities?

**HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT** are the two main items on the Druse list of grievances. The steady population growth in the villages has resulted in most of the available land for housing development being used up.

Druse local council heads complain that, although many of them have drafted long-term construction plans, which include housing development zones, most of these are still awaiting official approval.

And without designated sites, there cannot be any orchestrated development with the road, sewage and water system infrastructure that goes with it.

The Druse, who generally prefer to build their own homes, also charge that they get little or no assistance, financial or otherwise, from government agencies. Usually, they say, the reverse is the case. They often find themselves entangled in a maze of bureaucratic red tape which is difficult and, at times, nigh impossible to unravel.

Young couples say that they cannot receive the preferred mortgage loans which the Housing Ministry makes available to others because, apparently, they do not meet the required criteria.

The dearth of approved building land in the villages means that those who want to build a home for themselves have to do so outside the recognized boundaries. The consequence is hundreds of illegal buildings around Druse settlements — homes which, because they were constructed without planning or building permits, cannot receive electricity, or in some cases even water supplies, let alone a telephone line.

Such properties, usually erected with private funds, often become the subject of court action, which, at best, ends with the owner-builder being heavily fined or, at worst, a demolition order being issued. Druse charge that this practice is

hardly designed to enhance relations between the community and the state or to encourage young Druse to fulfil their national obligations.

MANY of those who find themselves in this unenviable situation are newly-wed demobilized soldiers, who want to settle down, get a job, build a home and raise a family. Finding a job, however, presents an even bigger obstacle in these depressed economic times than locating approved building land.

Asked about his plans when he leaves the army, the young paratrooper in Daliat al-Carmel replied: "I honestly don't know what I'm going to do.

"Around here," he said, indicating the village and its environs, "there's nothing at all. Maybe I will be able to find work in Haifa; but that's unlikely the way things are at the moment.

"I don't intend to stay in the army after I've completed my service; but at the same time, regular jobs are hard to come by. I'll probably end up on the dole, like so many others," he added.

The problems of unemployment are national, however, not confined to one particular area or community. So why, ask the cynics, should Druse, as they are demanding, be treated as a special case?

The Druse argue that their plight is even worse, due to the lack of previous industrial development in their villages. And without approved construction plans, no land can be earmarked for future development. These factors make the long-term outlook exceedingly bleak.

Most Druse villages, however, have cottage industries, small workshops, producing the traditional goods so admired by tourists, abound.

There are also numerous textile plants and sewing workshops, although these employ mainly women. But with the notable exception of the Kadamani brothers' foundry on the outskirts of Yerka village in Western Galilee, there is no big industry in the Druse sector.

It is for this reason, they say, that many Druse turn to the armed services for their livelihoods. Some 30 per cent of the male working population serve in the army, the police and Border Police, or in the Prisons Service. Although some have "made



good," the majority of Druse are dissatisfied with their lot and fault the government for paying nothing more than lip service to their problems.

THESE and other grievances were aired at a recent meeting of Druse dignitaries, local council heads and other leading members of the community, with Jewish Agency treasurer Akiva Lewinsky.

Many of the participants complained about the lower-than-average standards in Druse schools where, they charged, there is a shortage of just about everything, from classrooms to computers, which are available in most Jewish schools.

The overcrowding in schools and lack of facilities have retarded educational advancement to the extent that only a handful manage to meet university entrance requirements. Against this background, they maintained, it is not hard to see why young Druse find good jobs hard to come by.

But those who have heard these and similar complaints in the past argue that the picture is not as bad as that depicted by the Druse. They note that most Druse villages did not have running water before 1948, or educational facilities that could properly be called schools. Standards today, in comparison, are light years ahead.

Also several Druse have achieved prominence. They point to Atshi, who was Israeli consul for information in New York from 1972 to 1975, and subsequently a member of the permanent Israeli mission to the UN until 1976.

True, the Druse concede, there have been significant improvements since they threw in their lot with the Jews; but not at the same tempo or proportion.

The participants at the meeting cited other problems in Druse villages, among them shortages of kindergartens, sports fields, swimming pools, cultural and community centres and youth clubs.

But didn't the same apply to Jewish settlements in the past and even today? The early settlers had encountered more daunting difficulties than these and overcame them mainly through self-help. Why can't the Druse do the same?

"We try," was the common response, "but we don't have the same backing from the state or the finan-

cial support of Jewish and Zionist organizations abroad. There's no Project Renewal in our villages for instance," they asserted.

Several of the participants expressed concern about the growing wave of discontent in the community over what it perceives as a haughty attitude by the government and the seeming unimportance it attaches to Druse grievances. They also warned that unless their problems are tackled soon and in a positive way, the dissatisfaction will become more widespread and ultimately lead to the disintegration of the alliance.

THE APPARENT consensus of opinion on this issue was epitomized by Sgan Aluf (Lieut. Col. res.) Mohammed Mula, head of the Yerka local council. He noted that his village, like many Druse settlements, has a large Arab population in the vicinity.

"When a Druse soldier is demobilized and returns to his village, he sees many of his Christian and Moslem neighbours already settled with jobs and their own homes. Several have graduated from university, or qualified for various professions," said Mula. "He asks himself what is the point of serving in the army, if at the end he is worse off than those who are not compelled to do military service?"

"Then there are the problems of housing and the lack of amenities in the village, which all add to his sense of frustration and bitterness.

"I brought up my children to sleep with their guns and always be ready to defend their country and their land," said Mula, who has five sons serving in the IDF. "But how can I convince other young Druse of their duty to fulfil their national obligations, when they see demobilized soldiers spending a year or more after leaving the army trying, in many cases unsuccessfully, to find work?"

"At the same time, they feel the Arabs are laughing at them, because they [the Arabs], who have used the previous three years to continue and often to complete their studies or to settle into a job, are better off. It's humiliating."

Mula revealed that 14 young Druse from his village are currently studying in East European countries, through the aid of the Rakah Communist Party. "When they return home in the next few years and

start spreading the word, we are really going to have a serious problem on our hands." He called on the government and the Jewish Agency to encourage and to support young Druse by providing scholarships and stipends.

"We have got to do something to counter the communist propaganda. Otherwise, I fear, all we have worked and fought for will go to waste," he added.

UNTIL NOW opposition by Israeli Druse to the pact of allegiance has been generally isolated and scattered, with the exception of one minority group, the Rakah-affiliated Druse Volunteer Committee.

The organization professes to have around 2,500 adherents who see themselves as Arabs by nationality and Druse by religion. They call for the abolition of the Druse-Israel alliance, and support Arab demands for a Palestinian State.

Their influence on the majority of Druse has in the past been marginal; but the conformists fear that they could win over more malcontents, especially the disgruntled young, by taking advantage of the current wave of unrest.

But what do members of the younger Druse generation have to say?

Carmel Nasser e-Din, 17 and a pupil at Daliat al-Carmel high school, shares the concern of his elders.

The Communist Party, he said, is very active locally and appears to be centring attention on young Druse. "Many of us feel we have been let down by the state and there are some who are beginning to think twice about being drafted, and a few who say they will refuse to serve.

"I don't look at it that way. I believe this attitude is due to a lack of awareness on their part. Nevertheless, we do have genuine grievances and we have to fight for our rights through the democratic process, but not by refusing to serve in the army."

Yunis Bbase, who is also soon to be drafted, endorsed his friend's comments. "I feel it is my duty to the Druse community as well as to the state to go into the army," he said.

THE MEETING with Lewinsky was arranged by the Druse Zionist Organization and held at its Daliat al-Carmel headquarters, which also

happens to be the home of the organization's chairman, Yusef Nasser e-Din.

He founded the association 11 years ago to counter Arab propaganda that "Zionism equals racism" and to promote closer ties between Jews and Druse.

The apolitical organization has 1,500 members and many more supporters throughout the Druse community. Another of its aims is to promulgate ideological values and principles among Druse youth, to help them identify with the state of which they are an integral part.

"A young Druse has an identity problem. He's not an Arab or a Jew. He feels he has fallen between two chairs," said Nasser e-Din. "Our intention is to help him find his place in this mixed, modern society, while maintaining his Druse identity and background. To do that we need the support of a government with a comprehensive and cohesive policy to bridge the gap between Druse and Jews.

"Druse youths today are open-minded and socially aware. They are no longer prepared to blindly accept the teachings of their elders. They have to be convinced by physical as well as moral arguments of the benefits and values of our commitment to the State of Israel."

There are positive aspects, says Nasser e-Din, but these are outweighed by the problems and the lack of attention given to them; problems like those of Kissra village, where a land dispute with government agencies has been going on for 17 years and there is still no solution in sight.

The Druse Zionist Organization recently staged a demonstration outside the Knesset to win public support and sympathy for their claims, while protesting against what they describe as governmental "inertia." Their demands included giving Druse villages special development status to ease the housing shortage and to encourage industry to boost job prospects.

"We cannot and will not allow our calls to go unanswered any longer. The time has come for Druse to take positive action and to use all the democratic means at our disposal to press for a just and honourable solution to our problems," said Nasser e-Din.

MEANWHILE, other influential Druse leaders, like MK Atshi, are conducting similar battles along different lines.

"As a Knesset member I am trying, through the establishment and the coalition, to press for the rights of the Druse to be recognized and for action to be taken to redress what we consider the present imbalance," said Atshi.

"But there is a great deal of impatience; and I fear that unless we get a positive response to these demands in the very near future, the Druse community will reassess its role as a partner in the Jewish State, with all that such a reassessment implies.

"The alliance up to now has been

totally one-sided. Druse serve in the army, do their duty and some of them die. In return, they receive a polite smile and a pat on the back as a gesture of appreciation," he said.

According to the Druse, such gestures are no compensation for unrealized ambitions and being deprived of the basic amenities and facilities which most Jews take for granted.

The voices and political affiliations may differ, but the message emanating from members of the Druse community is essentially the same. If we are partners on the battlefield, they say, then we demand to be recognized and treated as equal citizens. Nothing more; but nothing less.

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ISRAEL

SUPPORT FOR KACH SAID DECREASING, STILL VIABLE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 86 p. 3

[Article by Hanoch and Rafi Smith: "Support for Kach Ebbs, But Still Equal to Shas"]

[Text]

The tide of voters for MK Meir Kahane's Kach Party has receded considerably from a high of 9 per cent in August 1985 to 3 per cent in the poll conducted last month by the Smith Research Centre among 1,245 Jewish voters. But this is still more than twice the percentage that supported him in the 1984 Knesset elections.

In the 1984 elections, Kach received 25,000 of the over 2,000,000 votes cast. This was 1.2 per cent of the total votes cast and gave Kahane his Knesset seat. Despite the recent drop in the polls, he nonetheless has as much support as Shas and more than Shinui.

The election results indicated his votes came mainly from the poorer development towns and the poor districts in certain cities. For example Kach received 6.8 per cent of the vote in Hatzor, 5.6 in Beit She'an, 4.6 in Netivot, 4.5 in Shlomi, and 4.3 in Beit Shemesh.

His strength remains in the same quarters - the development towns and the poor districts. Demographic data indicate that at present nearly 90 per cent of his supporters are Jews originating in Islamic countries. Among Western Jews his support does not even approach the 1 per cent needed to get Knesset representation.

Nearly all the voters for Kach in the sample were under 39 years old. Being young, most of them were educated in Israel. Yet nearly 60 per cent had less than 12 years of schooling, a far higher percentage than

among the supporters of any major party. A very high percentage of the Kach voters appear to have been school drop-outs or graduates of low-level vocational courses.

A large majority of Kach supporters are males, nearly half of whom defined themselves as religious or ultra-Orthodox while most of the remainder defined themselves as traditional (*masorti*). There were practically no secular Jews among Kahane supporters in the poll.

This finding is of considerable significance, because they are more similar in profile to supporters of the religious parties than to supporters of parties like Tehiya and the Likud. While half of Kach's gains in the March poll, compared to the 1984 vote, came from the Likud, the other half came from religious parties, mostly Shas.

The employment situation of the Kach voter is also noteworthy. While in the general poll 22 per cent expressed a fear of losing their jobs, a clear majority of Kach voters in the poll expressed fear for their jobs in addition to those who had already lost their jobs.

Thus the portrait of the hard-core Kach supporter reveals a young, under-educated male of Islamic country background, whose situation in the labour market is precarious, and who lives in a poor neighbourhood or in a development town which suffers from high unemployment. In brief, they are the disadvantaged, for they are at odds with

Israeli society today.

Unlike virtually all other voters, Kach supporters feel that the government is not succeeding in dealing with the economy and is, in general, a failure. Over all ministers, they prefer Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz of Shas and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon of the Likud; they dislike Prime Minister Peres the most.

Large majorities of Kach supporters resemble Orthodox religious voters, in that they support religious values as the basis for Israeli law, see the expansion of religious influence as a good thing, and oppose secular Jewish positions generally.

One of the important findings of the survey is how the support for Kahane differs from that of the other parties in the centre and right of the

Israeli political spectrum. Tehiya supporters are much like Likud supporters in most of their characteristics; they appreciate the government's economic programme, giving it reasonably high marks and appreciate its key ministers, including Peres.

Tehiya supporters simply have stronger positions on issues related to the Arabs. Their supporters do not defect easily to Kahane. They are part of the mainstream of Israeli political life. The Kach supporters are distinctly outside it and hostile, with a religious twist. Because there is a broader population which supports strong positions vis-à-vis the Arabs and suffers economic uncertainty in these times, they could potentially feed on a much larger population.

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ISRAEL

PALESTINIAN VISITORS TO JORDAN ENCOUNTER 'HARASSMENT'

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 86 p. 2

[Article by Joel Greenberg: "Amman Harasses W. Bankers"]

[Text] West Bank Palestinians travelling to Jordan are encountering increased bureaucratic harassment, including passport confiscation and interrogation, Palestinian and Israeli sources confirmed yesterday.

According to the sources, Jordanian steps include limits on the duration of visiting permits and are directed mainly at Fatah supporters in the territories. The measures, which have been tightened up over the last few weeks, are apparently connected to the recent break between Jordan and the PLO.

A recent victim of the Jordanian policy was Jamil Tarifi, a pro-PLO prospective candidate-to-be mayor of el-Birah. The sources said Tarifi's passport was confiscated at the Jordanian border, and he was delayed for five days and questioned at length before being allowed to return to the West Bank. Tarifi had planned to leave Jordan for a business trip to Italy, the sources said.

They said the recent measures had not reached the proportions of similar moves in 1983, during another period of tension between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat.

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CSO: 4400/166

ISRAEL

CANADA CAMP REFUGEES RESETTLE IN GAZA

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Apr 86 p. 1

[Article by Joel Greenberg: "Palestinian Refugees Tour Planned Resettlement Site"]

[Text] RAFAH. - A major Israeli-Egyptian repatriation programme for Palestinian refugees got under way yesterday with the visit of 23 refugees living in Egyptian-controlled Rafah to the site of their prospective resettlement in the Gaza Strip.

The refugees live in the Canada camp on the Egyptian side of the divided city, and are the first of about 4,300 persons to be relocated under a 1982 agreement between Israel and Egypt. Implementation of the agreement was delayed, but is now moving ahead as part of the recent progress in normalization between the two countries.

In 1972 the refugees were moved from a camp in Rafah to the newly-built Canada camp.

The 23 refugees crossed through a gate in the border fence which divides Rafah. They were accompanied by an Egyptian liaison officer and a local government official. Scores of residents of Israeli-controlled Rafah gathered at a distance from the crossing point as the visitors were registered, some according to identity cards issued when they lived under Israeli rule. Few onlookers could be seen on the Egyptian side.

The visitors then boarded a bus which took them on a brief visit to the resettlement site at Tel Sultan.

They said they were moving to reunite with relatives whom they hadn't seen since the border fence was constructed. Israeli officials said Egypt was anxious to be rid of the refugees.

Talking to reporters under the watchful gaze of the Egyptian liaison officer, some of the refugees complained they had not been allowed off the bus to visit the sites of their future homes. Others said they had received none of the financial aid promised them by Egypt, and had detected no visible signs of the new neighbourhood. "I just saw flowers," said one.

Egypt is to pay each refugee family \$8,000 as compensation for leaving homes in the Canada camp. The money is to be used by the refugees for construction of new houses on 500 plots at Tel Sultan. Israel spent \$1.5 million in 1982 to prepare the infrastructure for the new neighbourhood, including electric power lines, sewage pipes, water systems, and roads.

Additional Israeli funds will be required for the construction of schools, health clinics and a commercial centre in the new neighbourhood. The refugees will also receive job placement assistance from the Gaza Civil Administration.

Rafi Sadeh, head of the Refugee Rehabilitation Department of the Civil Administration, said registration of the incoming refugees would take some 25 weeks, but he declined to say when the resettlement would begin.

Jewish settlers, protesting against the planned resettlement, squatted at Tel Sultan early yesterday morning, but were moved out by IDF troops, as the area was declared a closed military zone.

The settlers say the influx of hos-

tile elements among the refugees will create a security problem in the area. OC Southern Command Aluf Uri Saguy yesterday rejected the charge. "It's not an unusual development, and the security forces can handle it," he said.

"While development towns are running out of money, funds are spent on Arabs from Egypt," said Yigal Kirschenshaft, a leading settler activist.

The coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmuel Goren, yesterday rejected charges that the resettlement was a demographic "time bomb." He said it "has no demographic meaning" for the Gaza Strip. He added that all the refugees had originally been residents of Rafah, and that 57 of them cross the border every week to work in the Gaza Strip, including in the Civil Administration.

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ISRAEL

## PERES APPROVES JORDANIAN PASSPORTS FOR GAZA STRIP RESIDENTS

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Apr 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yossi Lemkowicz]

[Text] Premier Shimon Peres said yesterday that Israel was willing for Gaza Strip residents to be given Jordanian passports. Peres was speaking in Strasbourg, where he addressed the parliamentary assembly of the 21-nation Council of Europe.

Peres's suggestion is in line with the ideas he expressed in an interview in today's *Jerusalem Post*, in which he says that Israel should encourage links between Jordan and Gaza to advance the peace process. (See page 5.)

Speaking to the assembly, Peres said that the "only framework" that held promise for peace between Israel and its neighbours, and for solving the Palestinian problem, was "direct negotiations between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation."

He said Israel was determined to reach a settlement with those Palestinians "who reject terrorism and violence," should they assume leadership roles.

Referring to his Marshall Plan for the Middle East at a press conference after his speech, Peres said he had heard some "encouraging" responses from several Arab coun-

tries, which he did not name. Peres stressed to the assembly that industrialized countries, which are expected to save an estimated \$70 billion this year from the drop in oil prices, should channel some of these savings to an economic rehabilitation programme for the Middle East.

Peres said that action taken against international terrorism should be "constant, comprehensive and consistent in its application: Terrorism is uncompromising, thus it must be confronted in an uncompromising way." Peres stressed that cooperation by Western countries in the battle against terror might restrain those who backed terror and thus might contain the problem.

At the press conference, Peres corrected press reports that French Premier Jacques Chirac had agreed to sell Israel a nuclear reactor, on condition that Iraq received a similar reactor. "There is no parallel between the two," Peres said. "Israel is looking for a nuclear reactor to produce electricity," he said, noting that the Iraq reactor - destroyed by Israeli bombs in 1981 - "produced problems, but not energy."

Before leaving for home via Paris, the premier was received at the Strasbourg town hall by the mayor, and later met leaders of the Jewish community.

*Joel Greenberg adds:*

Deposed Gaza mayor Rashad a-Shawwa told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that while the issuing of Jordanian passports would be welcomed in the Gaza Strip as a practical move which would ease travel to the Arab world, Jordan was unlikely to take such a step. He indicated that the move would expose Jordan to PLO opposition and charges that it was imposing itself on the Palestinians.

Informed Palestinian sources said last night that the granting of passports by Jordan would be politically

unwise, because it would be interpreted as a usurpation of the PLO's representation of Gaza's Palestinians in a territory never before claimed by Jordan. The move would also be economically risky for Jordan, since it could bring an influx of Gaza Palestinians into Jordan and further burden its ailing economy.

Jordan issued some 4,000 five-year passports to Gaza residents in the early 70s, but has recently limited their period of renewal, reducing the number of passport holders to a few hundred.

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

OFFSHORE OIL PROSPECTS--Tel Aviv--Three Egyptian offshore oil exploration experts are expected to arrive here today to advise Israeli colleagues on the best way to carry out such operations. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that he had personally called Egyptian Oil Minister Abdel Hani Kandil to congratulate him on the recent offshore oil find west of El-Arish. At the same time he asked Kandil to send some of his experts to help Israel find oil in the Mediterranean. Kandil agreed immediately. Shahal told THE POST that some drilling had been done opposite El-Arish when it was under Israeli control, but that the company concerned stopped drilling before reaching the depth at which the Egyptians have now found oil. Shahal is confident that there is oil under the Mediterranean. "If the Egyptians found oil opposite El-Arish, there is no reason why it cannot be found opposite Israel's coastline which geologically is a continuation of the Sinai coast." Speaking before the Israeli committee of the World Energy Conference, Shahal said that he had restructured the various government companies and bodies dealing with oil exploration, leaving only skeleton crews. The entire matter of oil exploration is now left to private companies. [By Yitzhak Oked] [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 86 p 19] /12851

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-'ATTAS VISITS AL-MAHRAH, URGES VIGILANCE

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 26 Mar 86 p 3

[Article: "Al-'Attas Calls for Unceasing Vigilance in Defense of the Party and its Principles and to Root its Ideas among the Masses at a Meeting with Party Leaders in al-Mahrah Governorate"]

[Text] Within the framework of his visit to the governorate of al-Mahrah, comrade Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, a member of the politburo and chairman of the of the supreme people's council presidium, yesterday morning made inspection visits to the al-Ghayzah airport project and the guest house project in al-Ghayzah, during which he became acquainted with what has been accomplished on these two projects as well as the current projects to complete preparation of the airport, which includes a control tower, offices, housing for workers, an electricity station, and concourses.

Yesterday afternoon, the comrade and chairman of the supreme people's council presidium met with party leaders in the governorate of al-Mahrah, the directorates and the support organizations. He reviewed with them the details of the bloody 13 January plot, led by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique, which was meant to annihilate the party--the safety valve of the revolution--and the elimination of all of the achievements of the revolution.

Further, he reviewed with them the various decisions and steps that the politburo and central committee had taken to eliminate the plot and to increase the leadership role of the party and its cohesion with the masses of the people.

He called the party leaders to unceasing vigilance for the sake of defending the party and its principles and to work to root its ideas among the masses, so as to serve to broaden the mass movement around it in consideration of its being the struggling political vanguard for laborers and workers in our country, pointing to the victory which our party and our people realized in extirpating the plot which embodied tangibly the deep extent of the ties that link the party and the masses. Further, he called the party leaders in the governorate to active and courageous practice of all of the party principles established in the internal regulations and the program of the party and to make the principle of criticism and self-criticism daily fare among us; this will make us able to escape the negatives in due time and to dedicate the

positive side in the course of the daily struggle, in which our party is engrossed in the course of broadening and deepening the revolutionary experiment practiced in our country.

Comrade Haydar al-'Attas dealt with a number of current Arab and international issues and the position of our country regarding them and the results of the visits of our delegation abroad at the meeting.

The comrade, chairman of the supreme people's council presidium arrived at al-Ghayzah after al-Mukalla yesterday morning on his inspection visit of al-Mahrah Governorate, during which he participated in the repentance ceremony on the occasion of the forty-day commemoration of the ill-fated 14 January martyrs. On his arrival at the al-Ghayzah airport he was received by Sa'id 'Askari 'Abdallah, a member of the central committee and first secretary of the committee on party organization in the governorate, Muhammad Salim Badinar, a member of the central committee and chairman of the executive board of the local peoples council, and a number of officials in the governorate.

Comrade Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas called the party leaders in the governorate of Hadramawt to tireless struggle to eradicate the influences of the subversive plot and to continue to work to increase the leadership role of the party in society and to work with one another in a critical spirit with any manifestation which violated the charters, goals, and principles of the party.

This happened yesterday evening when he chaired the first comprehensive party meeting of the secretariat of the party organization in the governorate of Hadramawt and the secretariats and directorates of al-Makalla, Hajar, and al-Shahar, and the leadership committees of the support organizations in them. The meeting reviewed the nature of the unsuccessful subversive plot and the various decisions made by the politburo and the central committee to overcome the effects of the plot and to increase the unity of the party and the people; it worked with the families of the martyrs and the wounded along with the detainees. It also took measures to counter the political, economic, and social effects.

Further, he reviewed with them the results of the visits and contacts made with sister and friendly parties and countries to explain the nature of the plot and its situations, as well as our democratic national party, and regime.

He emphasized that a detailed evaluative study explaining all of the factors and causes and seeds of the plot will be prepared to form an analytical document of our democratic national party and regime experiment during the past phase. Further, the meeting dealt with a number of Arab and international issues and our country's position with regard to them.

Moreover, comrade al-'Attas responded to observations and questions about the issues which were discussed.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

PEOPLE'S MILITIA FIGURES DISCUSS ROLE IN THWARTING COUP

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 28 Mar 86 p 5

[Article by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf 'Ali: "Emphasis on Working To Restore Its Shining Face to the Militia"]

[Text] The People's Militia is considered an important military institution which has played a prominent role since its establishment in defending our revolutionary experiment and national progressive democratic system. This military technical institution has established its competence in enduring and persevering with the task for whose sake it was established, has managed to grasp all modern military methods and has proved its ability to thwart attempts aimed at infringing on our revolutionary experiment since the events of 26 June 1978.

In addition there have been the events of the bloody 13 January 1986.

The chief of the command spoke:

We had this meeting with the comrade Maj Sa'id Ahmad Sallum, chief of the People's Militia national command, who in his conversation with the paper shed light on the overall conditions this institution experienced from 1978 to 1986 and also highlighted the important issues assigned to the organization, both in the present and the future.

During his conversation with the paper, he made a statement by saying "Wrongful, arbitrary methods were pursued against this young institution and its various military units by the conspiring clique which the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad led. In 1978, this institution started to be divested of its class content, for which it had been established.

"The elements in the clique, at the beginning of its formation in 1978, started to draw new personnel into the ranks of the militia units. The armed forces had ejected these elements because of their inability to keep abreast of modern military developments or as a result of erroneous practices which truly gave the armed forces a bad name. In the framework of the national command, the staff was removed and replaced by another one, exploiting its good quality to formulate issues which concerned their interests and those of people within the command.



"The issue of the assignment of tasks within the units on a regional and tribal basis began to manifest itself through the presence of some contrived vacancies, and this phenomenon became particularly apparent recently, in an obvious manner."

In the context of the units, the comrade Maj Sa'id Ahmad Sallum pointed out "Changes started to occur in a wide fashion and the issue of regional groupings started to become current in the provinces, directorates and centers in the People's Militia, and also in the context of the brigades."

"This phenomenon was in particular given strong legitimacy in the Governorate of Abyan. The Mudram Brigade in Abyan Governorate was approvisioned with a complete supply of men and materiel to push it in the direction of liquidating the principled personnel."

"Some main units were left in neglect without allotments or were incorporated in military institutions of the Ministry of Defense or the militia. An example of that was the Martyred Maj 'Umar 'Ali School. These units were also kept from carrying out their tasks. In the context of the national command, obvious blocs started to appear recently, in 1984-85, on a regional basis, as I mentioned earlier. Members of the coup clique sanctified these, starting by transferring competent and leadership personnel and replacing them with personnel well known for enmity toward the revolution."

With respect to the units, the comrade general head of the national command pointed out "Some individuals were assigned to be secretaries of warehouses and arms storehouses, specifically in Abyan, Shabwah and the Governorate of Aden. Other measures were taken, among them isolating the national command from its military and combat missions and emptying it of its real content."

"In the financial area, some financial violations became apparent, since sums of money were disbursed outside the scope of the institution, the Social Affairs Fund was transferred directly to the Ministry of Defense and the special soldier's shop in the institution was totally eliminated."

"In spite of constant demands for a change in these measures which were being made, they were harshly rejected and suspended without discussion."

Comrade Sa'id Sallum went on to say that the role of the political section and the role of the staff were weakened as well and it was not given full powers as a staff. Internal transfers of soldiers and conscripts were prohibited and many things were passed through without notification of the staff.

By means of the presence of the dispersed remnants of the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's clique in the militia command and important sections, they sought to diminish the role of the militias and keep from informing the chief of this section of many political and combat affairs. They also worked to reduce the resources belonging to the operations room and alienate good personnel from the operations room, transfer them to the Ministry of Civil Defense, transfer officers, attract personnel loyal to them and deal with them directly without the knowledge of the staff and the chief of the operations section.



With respect to machinery, the machinery was badly used; this led to the loss of most of it, the failure to purchase suitable spare parts for broken down machinery and the return of sums of money belonging to this section to the Ministry of Defense, while the command was in urgent need of this machinery to carry out its activity in the requisite manner.

Thus the elements in the clique worked to empty this institution of its class content and thwart its role and worked to accumulate all the departments and units in the militia. In spite of all these contemptible practices, the militia still is the party militia.

With respect to the events of the bloody 13 January:

Comrade Maj Sa'id Ahmad Sallum, acting chief of the general command of the People's Militia, gave an account by saying:

"On Sunday 12 January all the measures bearing on my trip to the Soviet Union were completed and all the necessary elements for the course which I was given with the goal of removing me from the camp were provided. On 13 January in the morning I went to the central committee to make my party status official. Life was very normal and natural, just the same as any of the days we go through. After that I went to the command, where at 1000 hours sharp I was in the office of the commander and handed over the weapon in my possession, a revolver, since I was going to abandon my responsibility to go on the trip in the afternoon as had been specified. I said goodbye to al-Bakhishi and Muhammad Surur and went to go and was surprised to find them accompanying me to the middle of the square. I took notice of this sort of activity for the first time, went to the outer door and found the door locked, with a group of officers loyal to the clique by the door. The sight provoked amazement. When I got to them I asked them about this gathering, and their answer was that it was nothing. Then Muhammad Surur left the camp in a first aid vehicle. It later became clear that the reason for his departure was to bring weapons from his home. I went directly outside the camp, met with the comrade Capt Zayd Husayn, asked him about where he was going and learned that he was going to the camp to hand over his personal pistol and receive a letter bearing on his transfer to the eastern axis. I kept him from going in and explained to him that the atmosphere in the camp was not natural, especially the activity of the officers, which suggested that something abnormal was happening. We then headed with others to the home of the comrade Capt 'Ali al-Muwashshati and after that got in contact by telephone with the camp with Comrade Muhammad 'Umar. At that moment I lifted the telephone receiver he informed me that they had proceeded to arrest him and a few seconds before hanging up we heard a shot. That was the shot by which Comrade Maj Zayn 'Umar Diyan met his martyrdom.

"We got in touch with the governorate command, with Comrade Muhammad Thabit Sufyan, candidate member of the central committee and the governorate's People's Militia commander, who also later met his martyrdom in a barbaric manner, and he sought an explanation from us. We moved directly to the Sirah milita department. When we went by Mudrim Street we observed great armed groups on the houses and along the sides of the camp, inside and outside. When we reached the department I found the camp commander, the political

deputy commander, the personnel in the department and a group of party comrades, militia members and citizens. They had not yet been given arms, I gave directives that arms were to be distributed to the people present, and we started to take over certain important positions. Later Comrade Salim 'Abdallah Yasin came to us, and on the basis of his knowledge of the personnel in the Crater area actions were taken to make some arrangements. We managed to take over all the militia units and informed all our units of what had gone on in the 20 June camp.

"A joint force was formed with our comrades after we confirmed that we did not have any effective weapons except for small arms and the medium of the expertise acquired by our forces.

"Let us not forget to point out here that we were bombarded in a barbaric manner by various types of heavy arms, from naval vessels and the Ministry of the Interior, by artillery, B-10's and RPG's.

"We were in direct communication with our higher command and our comrades in various areas. Thus we were in contact with Comrade al-Sayyili in the armored corps. On 19 January our comrades took over the arms warehouse in the Ministry of the Interior and we managed to take over the [June] 20 Camp and apportioned out the stations throughout the Governorate of Aden in coordination with state security. Comrade Rashid Jarhum helped us in this, and in this manner we managed to seize control of things."

With respect to the future tasks of the People's Militia after the the events:

Comrade Sa'id Ahmad Sallum stated, in his conversation with the paper, "Great, burdensome tasks are being laid out before the People's Militia following the events. At present this requires from us the reorganization of some units, especially in the Governorates of Abyan and Shabwah, in addition to backing up units with competent personnel who are able to keep going.

"In the context of the militia units in general, it is necessary to organize structures for these units and arrange their conditions as they had been before 1978, while introducing new, advanced tasks for the militia so that it will be able to keep abreast of development and modern techniques.

"We will exert great effort in coordination with the party organizations in the governorates to develop the People's Militia in order to revive the class spirit in this institution. It is also necessary to restore the previous training of party members and also militia members in the form of citizens who provide support, and to rebuild the Martyred Maj 'Umar 'Ali School for the People's Militia, as it is the real buttress for building the organization of local personnel."

#### The Political Deputy Speaks

We had this meeting with the comrade Maj 'Abd-al-Malik Muhammad Salih, the national command's political deputy. He talked to us about the role of the People's Militia, its tasks and the methods the adventurous clique had taken

to ruin this young military institution in order to empty it of its content and its basic tasks, stating, "The People's Militia were the source of anxiety for the fascist coup clique. For a short period of time, it had schemed to draw the People's Militia into labyrinths outside its basic tasks for whose sake it had been established. Among these tasks were the organization, training and mobilization of toiling workers and peasants and the other toiling social classes for the sake of effective participation in defending the progressive accomplishments of our people and protecting the revolution from any apostasy or aggression."

In the context of his conversation, Comrade 'Abd-al-Malik made a reference by stating that the People's Militia, in its capacity as a military institution with a mass character, consists of a class apparatus which the party established early on to be a powerful support alongside the giant armed forces and security organizations in the country in order to guarantee the preservation of the glorious 14 October revolution and our people's progressive accomplishments.

However, this role assigned to the People's Militia gave the clique no rest. At the head of this clique were the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his group, and they resorted to attempting to co-opt the militia, reducing its role gradually and sealing it off by halting its continued relations with mass installations and organizations and party organizations and making the People's Militia activity pro forma, not going beyond the registration of reserves and recruitment, while one must assert that the mobilization law issued in 1977 and the general reserve law issued in January 1981 had come about to serve the revolution in our country and specifically to aid the armed forces with new blood to play its national role in defending national sovereignty. However, the militia was not given the opportunity to reconstitute itself, organize and train its combat units as the planning for it had been made on an annual basis in the desire to guarantee the militia's combat readiness and enable it to organize itself and arm its units in a short time if threats rose to the fore which endangered the regime and the revolution.

The comrade deputy of the political department in the People's Militia described the [June] 20 Camp, stating "When personnel loyal to the clique in the command faced real difficulties in this regard, they resorted to new methods.

"These included bringing in personnel which the armed forces had expelled from their units because of their inability to keep abreast of the development that had occurred in the armed forces in all military and ideological areas. These they handed over to important centers in the hierarchy of the militia, from the national command to its small units. While the elements of the clique in the national command had complained about unemployment in the officers' ranks, it conversely accepted large numbers of personnel who were not principled, with the goal of eliminating the good personnel in the militia and weakening the role of the militia, turning it into empty organizations and making it easy for the clique to carry out any instructions, no matter how serious they were, against the social system existing in our country. However, the militia personnel who had been raised under the care of the Yemeni Socialist Party from the first moment of the establishment of



the People's Militia became aware of the dangers which might arise against our progressive regime, headed by its party, and against its objectives and principles founded on a class basis and realized that the consequences of being silent about this situation would be grievous. The struggle reached its peak with the holding of the party's full election cycle in early 1985, when personnel without principles were demoted from the leadership committees to the party base organizations in the militia, led by the base organization in the national command, and the elements in the clique were not given an opportunity to manipulate the principles of the party and its by-laws." Comrade 'Abd-al-Malik made a reference concerning this consideration during his conversation, stating, "Problems appeared, among them the attempt by elements in the clique to train party groups which had previously been dismissed because of their positions hostile to the party and the attempt to pass through the imposition of recommendations from higher personnel such as the person named Hadi Ahmad Nasir. However, they were not able to do that."

### The Reserve Director Speaks

We met the comrade Maj 'Abd-al-Rabb 'Abd-al-Rahman Salih, director of the general reserve department, who spoke to us saying:

"On the morning of the bloody 13 January, I was in the al-Burayqah area in my home, specifically following an ailment that had been troubling me.

"At 1100 hours sharp I heard shooting. I got in touch directly with the national command and contacted the Shamsan Brigade command. It sent me a car because I was surprised to find that my private car had broken down totally, although I had left it in good order the day before. I got into the Shamsan Brigade command car and headed directly toward Madinat al-Sha'b. I found myself being tailed and as soon as I reached the inspection point in the al-Burayqah police station, an armed group with unfamiliar faces attacked me, rained curses on me, arrested me and put me in prison. I realized that large segments of the 20 March movement group had taken over the al-Burayqah area. While I was in the prison I was summoned the same day, 13 January, and my comrades who were present in the prison hid me. From time to time we found that the clique had imprisoned another group of our comrades and put them in prison; finally the number of prisoners came to 130 within a room which could not accommodate 20. Among the prisoners with us was the martyred commander Muthayni 'Umar and at 1100 hours at night the same day four comrades were removed, Muhyi-al-Din Ahmad Sa'id, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Qadiri, 'Abd-al-Salam and Ahmad Sharaf Hamid. At 0100 hours in the morning the commander Muthayni 'Umar and Muhammad Salih al-Shu'aybi were removed, and we felt at that moment that our comrades who had been summoned would certainly meet their death from the members of the filthy clique, and we the remaining ones would certainly meet our death after these martyrs, bearing in mind that the prison we were in in the police station in al-Burayqah was the first floor, and the second floor was the station commander's office. There was noise in the commander's office. After that we were surprised by gunfire, and after that heard only dreadful silence, and were certain that the traitors had done away with our comrades.

"On 14 January the heat of combat in the al-Burayqah area intensified and the situation was settled right at 1700 hours in the afternoon of the same

day, after a violent clash in which the armor took part. When the conspirators sensed defeat, they fired at us while we were in the prison.

"Upon our departure we found a crate filled with bombs present which had been arranged to explode within the prison and had been set at the feet of the special guard in the prison.

"We went out of the prison in a suicidal manner in order to seek clarification of the situation, and we confirmed that power was in the hands of the party. We went off directly to the arms storehouse, where we found a group of arms, which we distributed among our comrades. I was assigned the task of organizing the force and we managed to take control of the important positions. We also overran the positions in which the coup clique had become concentrated and took over many weapons, items of machinery and communication equipment.

"We later notified the remaining pockets of the clique not to carry out any resistance, so that the lives of innocent people and children would be protected. After 15 January not a single shot was fired in the al-Burayqah area. We treated the citizens well, as our party had taught us to, since people are the most precious capital.

"Thus the al-Burayqah area was the first area to be purged of personnel from the coup clique which was led by the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. We were concerned that work should start in the al-Burayqah area in the facilities, especially in the refinery, because of its economic importance, and the workers started their work after 3 days of the events."

#### The Secretary of the Base Organization Speaks

In our meeting with the comrade Capt Muhammad 'Ali Talib, secretary of the base organization in the [June] 20 Camp, he spoke to us by stating,

"On the bloody 13 January, I was spending my holiday in the governorate of al-Dali'. When we heard the unfortunate declaration that evening, I and a group of young people headed directly to the defense council in the department to seek clarification of the situation. After that I went directly to the militia command in the directorate. There in the militia I was asked to remain to organize the militia personnel, who were sent to the command and handed over, especially when the command of the 'Abbud Brigade, whose command was loyal to the conspiring clique, refused to provide arms for the force.

"On the third day of the events, personnel from the clique proceeded to murder some principled personnel within the camp. Heading up the targets was the comrade Maj Muhammad Munsir. They started shooting inside the camp. After this criminal act, we had militia personnel overrun the camp after coordinating with the principled personnel within the camp itself.

"After the situation with the elements of the clique within the camp was resolved, the brigade was filled out with reservists, they were delivered and the brigade was then ready to carry out any task in any direction.



"On 16 January I and my comrades headed for Aden Governorate. As soon as we reached the 20 [June] Camp we joined the camp command in the national command to liquidate some pockets of the adventurous clique." The comrade Maj Muhammad 'Ali Talib, in the course of his conversation, made a reference by saying, "After the resolution of the conflict with the conspirators in our party, weighty tasks stood out in the face of developing the work and activity of the party organization in the national command, the most important of which was to increase the party's activity and influence within the ranks of the fighting men and strengthen its leadership role in the overall training activities through a spirit of absolute loyalty to the party and the spirit of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism, as well as by implanting and deepening an aware position regarding work and public ownership, implanting revolutionary traditions on the job and dealing with mutual respect among comrades in arms."

In the context of internal party activity, the comrade Capt Muhammad 'Ali Talib said, "Many tasks have asserted themselves before us, among them strengthening decisive party discipline at the bases of internal party life, strengthening the intellectual and organizational unity of the party and fighting the phenomena of disruption in the party's bylaws and programs concerning the stage of national democratic revolution. As one of the most important tasks in our future activity, the task of fighting on the ideological front also asserted itself before us, and this required an enhancement of intellectual and ideological levels and armament of the self with scientific socialist thinking among all our party comrades so that they will be able resolutely to stand up to all the propaganda techniques the forces of the counterrevolution are disseminating against our party and our revolutionary progressive course."

#### A Further Number of Leaders Talk

In our meeting with him, the comrade Capt Muhammad Darwish Husayn, the national command's deputy commander for technical affairs, said, "The action of the remnants of the coup clique present in this command, Salih Ahmad al-Bakhishi and Muhammad Surur by name, who dominated the command of the camp, worked to fight competent personnel, especially the party personnel and national personnel among them, particularly after the mass organization's election meeting, when they were removed from party positions.

"The person who went by the name Muhammad Surur swore openly that he would fight until an end was put to the principled party personnel who had removed him from individual dominance and his actions in violation of the party's bylaws.

"He started by transferring and banishing some comrades for matters in which they were not at fault, replacing them with bad suspicious personnel in important sections within the command, in preparation for carrying out their coup."

In the course of discussing what the conspiratorial clique had perpetrated in the camp on 13 January he made the statement of saying, "All the officers were summoned to a meeting by al-Bakhishi and the meeting began to discuss

very secondary issues, one of which was that no one was to leave except by order of the commander. The meeting ended without our producing results at all.

"As far as I was concerned, I went to the person who went by the name of al-Bakhishi so that he would permit me to leave and he gave me a letter to the technical department regarding machines for charging batteries and informed me that it should be written up in his name, provided that he sign it himself. When I left his office the person who went by the name of Muhammad Surur came in. He looked at me and laughed in ridicule. I was totally enraged by this sort of stupid behavior.

"Right at 0930 hours I went to the Crater station and at 1005 precisely I received a telephone call stating that we had a meeting and that I should appear quickly since there would be movement directly to the Tariq camp from the [June] 20 Camp. When I arrived at the headquarters, three armed persons from the clique attacked me. They were Zayd Muhammad Ahmad, Nasir Sulayman and another soldier who waved a weapon at me, and they informed me 'If you move consider yourself dead.' I tried to reach an understanding with them that I had a meeting with the commander, and their answer was 'You will find out everything from the barrel of the rifle if you do not go into the prison.' I was shoved into prison and found 13 of the most prominent and competent officers in it. I learned from these comrade officers that members of the clique had killed Maj Zayd 'Umar Diyan and Capt 'Awad Thabit 'Ilwi within the camp and the number of the prisoners in another prison came to 28 officers and 32 soldiers, conscripts and noncommissioned officers. We were subjected to different kinds of torture and death threats."

The comrade Maj Muhammad 'Umar Muhsin, staff national command of the militia in the 20 June Camp, spoke, stating,

"We resemble an important military organization in our country, and the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique tried to weaken its role through their personnel and their dominance of its command. Then the events of Monday 13 January 1986 occurred. I was assigned a mission from the people named al-Bakhishi and Muhammad Surur, who were considered among the prominent command personnel who planned and carried out the unsuccessful 13 January conspiracy, since all the officers in the national command were detained in the first minutes after the situation erupted, after they had been assigned the mission of settling the situation by someone called 'Ulaywah.

"These officers struggled without letup against all the practices that had been pursued before the plot. I personally was in the office, working as was my custom, and was surprised to see three of their personnel who had come to the office and asked me to surrender. These people were called Muhammad al-Khidr al-Rabbash, Salih Ba'ud al-'Amiri and Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Munqib. At that time I did not have weapons, even personal ones, and I surrendered and sat in the prison for a period of 8 days with a group of my officer comrades, such as:

"Muhammad Darwish Hasan, Nasir Husayn, Mani' Muhammad Muhsin, Taha Nu'aym, 'Abd-al-Malik Muhammad Salih, 'Abd-al-Rahim Hassan, Muthanna Salih al-Musli-mi and others.

"In spite of the losses our party and people sustained, our consolation was victory, since the principles and goals which our great party realized triumphed and party legitimacy and collective leadership triumphed."

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-BID COMMENTARY COMMEMORATES COUP 'MARTYRS'

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 25 Mar 86 p 8

[Commentary by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the central committee of the Yemeni Communist Party: "I Am Haunted By Your Memory"]

[Text] Words are heavy on the tongue, and ink heavy in the pen, mourning, while an elegy for the comrades of the single path, who, together with us, were comrades in the long struggle for the good of mankind and the florescence of our nation weighs heavily on the heart.

Weightier than all of this is the effort to gather feelings, sensations, and memories and to translate them into words by which to commemorate for our Yemeni people a group from the summits of modern national history, valiant knights of the revolution, and its most glorious martyrs, 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi.

Does anything weigh more heavily on the heart than the elegy for those martyrs whose childhood was tied to the suffering of the land and the people of our nation, under the fire light of colonial oppression and the tyranny of the imams and the sultans, who when they came of age, brought about memorable events of early pioneering, until they took on their necks the burdens of battling on behalf of freedom for the land and the people, who sketched, by the brightness of their eyes, glimpses of dreams and yearning desires to build a new society in which the land is free from the oppression of plundering, childhood free from poverty and illness, the worker able to escape from backwardness and the thorns of tyranny and tyrants which fill his eyes with sleeplessness and pain.

At the same time, the land was always full of good tidings, and the people were always a source of vision and of committed and conscious activity, and there has been a long line of pioneers who, in their personal development, their creative works, their bold pioneering, and their great sacrifices have embodied the good tidings of the land and the vision of the people.

It is because of you, who are great, that modern national history is being revived for all Yemeni people, at a time when the revolutionary period in Yemen is coming to a point in which the historical leaders of the glorious 14 October revolution and the founders of the great Yemeni Socialist Party are

becoming a crown of the gifts of this long line of martyrs and pioneers of the struggle who gave birth to our virtuous Yemeni land. What is this great crown which crowns the martyrs and the victors? It is the announcement of a new beginning, in which the workers bend their shoulders to expend effort and perseverance to reach the horizon of their steadfast revolutionary journey after carving, with their fingernails, picks, rifles, and pens a brilliant and promising tablet, this tablet which the oppressors, despots, tyrants, the fallen, defeated, and betrayed were unable, by their scribbling, to erase. The bloody plot of 13 January, hatched by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, attempted to remove the roots of this tablet from the good earth, when the hands of treachery and conspiracy made a bloody attack against a group of the most excellent and outstanding creators of the new revolutionary period in our country, 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi, and a large number of martyrs among the strugglers whose pure bodies protect the banners of the victorious revolution. Oh! What an abominable act! History will never forgive the perpetrators, who are forever disgraced. Oh! What great martyrdom which will remain forever inscribed in the hearts and minds of the workers and the distinguished sons of our good land.

Among the poor of Yemen were born 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi.

Among these poor they grew and suffered pains of deprivation, poverty, social injustice, and colonial oppression.

Amidst the pain of poverty, 'Abd-al-Fatah, 'Ali 'Antar, Salih Muslih, and 'Ali Sha'i' became aware of the national and social problems of their people. They became conscious of the fact that the will of the people is stronger than any plundering, and that the legitimate dream and the conscious act are twins that cannot be separated. In their struggle they united the luminous word, the strugglers rifle, the undaunted heart, and the willing hand.

Our martyrs dreamed of freedom and a happy life for other poor people of Yemen. They were in the vanguard, when along with their comrades in the struggle, they decided to search for solutions to the struggles of their people and nation, not in the thickets of history, nor in the towers of intellectual luxury, nor in the salons and corridors of half-solutions, but in the depths of the real situation in all of its inconsistencies and interactions.

Thus, the historical leaders of our revolution discovered the truth which gave the people new ability to take hold of consciousness, action, change, and development.

Therefore, they deserved the honor of the leadership of the revolutionary vanguard which knew how to work with the motivating laws of the struggle in a situation replete with thorns and challenges and knew how to proceed toward creation of a path of historical development for movement of the situation in the different areas of politics, thought, economics, and society.

It is not strange, in a situation such as this, that their deep belief in the victorious determined movement of history, and their deep belief that ideology



is the greatest resource with which the people can be armed and put to its service, is increased. Life is cheap in the service of this ideology. By this, they attained the glory which they deserve in all worthiness and ability.

The revolution of 14 October was part of the heroic epic of their life of struggle, and they were an original part of its intellect, its sharp sword, and its undaunted heart. They were able, thanks to the strong tie between consciousness and behavior and between words and deeds, to confront the various challenges and dangers, and they came to the fore of the path of the 14 October revolution, which destroyed the fortresses of colonialism and the sultans, and established the first government of the workers, farmers, and other classes in modern Yemeni history.

Alongside the stages of development of the revolution and the state in the course of the national and class struggle, there were the wonderful and unceasing gifts of 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi in the various battles of the struggle for national liberation and independence and the defense of national authority and deepening its popular democratic content, and for spreading the ideas of scientific socialism and the Proletarian Internationale, and for the sake of uniting the leftist groups and establishing the party, and for the defense of sovereignty and progress in the direction of socialism, and for the sake of regaining the one legitimate face for the divided nation.

They understood well that martyrdom is the price of victory in all of the highways and byways, and therefore they took upon themselves all of the bold and difficult choices which have contributed to shaping many of the changes of the new era in our country. The steadfast rays of revolutionary light which were established by the sweat and blood and sacrifices of the Yemeni workers in this part of the Arab world spread throughout the Arab horizon.

When the fighters of our party and the workers of our people, foremost of whom were the historical leaders of the revolution, chose the socialist orientation by bold conscious will, it was necessary for them to guard their travel on this path, and to eradicate all thorns and projections which would hinder their progress and pushing forward, and resolute resistance to all internal or external hostile challenges or plots that had the goal of impeding this victorious journey.

On this glorious path, the consciousness of the greater party emerged in the face of imminent dangers to the revolution and its socialist orientation. The dimensions of the suspicious practices and actions of the plotters 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique, climaxed on Black Monday, 13 January, when the ringleaders of the 13 January plot launched a joint bloody massacre on the organization with the intent of physically eliminating the historical leaders and experienced cadres of the party, and of preparing the way to deviate from the path of socialist orientation, to strip the authority from the workers and to surrender it to the bloodsuckers and those who steal their goods.

Certainly, the plot, in its ugliness, grossness, and provocation, put the modern national history of the Yemeni people in an acute and dangerous bind.

The best of the Yemeni revolutionaries, in countering this dangerous bind, were reaching out to all of the bold choices connected to the life of the leaders of the popular movement of the masses in modern Yemeni national history.

Thus, it is not strange that our great progressive choices, alongside the stages of development of the democratic national 14 October revolution, are part of the life of its historical leaders, 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali 'Antar, Salih Muslih, and 'Ali Shai'i Hadi.

It also is not strange that their life was crowned by glorious martyrdom, a cost of the victory of our glorious historical choice, by which members of the party, workers, farmers, the army, and the rest of the laborers embarked upon rescuing the revolution from the most dangerous plot, resisting it on a day when hands of treachery and perfidy were extended from within, and tried, in all baseness and malice, to extinguish its radiant sun and to bring back the dark night of the past.

They are, truly, great, your lives and your heroic deeds of struggle, you most illustrious martyrs, 'Abd-al-Fatah Isma'il, 'Ali 'Antar, Salih Muslih, and 'Ali Sha'i'.

The principles in which you believed and to which you devoted your lives in pursuit of their victory and for which you were martyred for the sake of lifting up your flag and defending it are truly great.

Greater than all of this is that you remain in the minds, souls, and hearts of all of the strugglers in our party and people, and of all progressive and honorable people in the world. Nothing is greater than your immortality.

I am haunted by your memory, Oh beloved comrades. Words cannot express the lament that you deserve.

We will remain faithful to your principles until death or martyrdom. Peace be with you on the day of your birth and on the day of your martyrdom, and on every day in which the gifts of your bold and pioneering labors loom under the flag of your party and the ideas of scientific socialism in the quarters of our country, and the baptism of your pure, virtuous blood.

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CSO: 4404/304

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

REPORT ON CENTRAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 23 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The central audit committee held its regular session yesterday morning which was attended by comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP's central committee.

During the meeting the comrade secretary general discussed with committee members the background of the 13 January conspiracy and its political and economic effects. He gave instructions for strengthening the role of the central audit committee in regulating the financial positions of the party apparatus in accordance with the tasking determined for it in the guidelines and internal statutes.

At the beginning of the meeting, the committee observed a minute of mourning for the 13 January martyrs, then discussed a number of subjects included in its agenda and adopted the necessary measures in their regard.

Moreover, comrade 'Abd-al-Jalil Tahir Badr was elected chairman of the central audit committee. The committee confirmed the promotion of 'Azizah Sharaf to basic membership.

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CSO: 4404/307

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

YOUTH OFFICIAL VISITS KOMSOMOL ORGANIZATION

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 26 Mar 86 p 3

[Article: "First Secretary of ASHID Visits the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Comrade Salih Sha'if, first secretary of the central committee of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Federation is making an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of comrade Victor Vishin, member of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party and first secretary of the central committee of the Leninist Komsomol.

Prior to departing Aden yesterday morning, comrade Salih Sha'if noted in his statement to the Aden News Agency that during this visit he will have numerous meetings on joint cooperation between the Yemeni and Soviet youth, confirming that the coming period will witness a noticeable development in the relations of the two organizations.

Comrade Salih Sha'if explained that he will inform the comrades in the Komsomol leadership of the nature of the 13 January conspiracy and the role of the youth in eliminating its effects and likewise the course of current preparations in our country to receive the 5th general conference of ASHID which meets next May.

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CSO: 4404/309

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

POPULAR DEFENSE COMMITTEES CONVENE 3RD CONFERENCE

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 26 Mar 86 p 3

[Article: "Organization of Popular Defense Committees in Districts of Tuban and Tur al-Bahah Hold 3rd Conference"]

[Text] The 3rd conference of the popular defense committees in the districts of Tuban and Tur al-Bahah was held yesterday morning at the college of agriculture in al-Hutah in Lahij Governorate.

At its opening session the conference discussed the tendered report which included the activities of the organization during the past period, the proposed final communique, resolutions and suggestions, and the election of a district committee, inspection committee, and delegates of the general conference.

At the opening session, comrade Taha 'Alawi Muhsin, acting head of the national command of the popular defense committees organization, explained that convening the conference is conducive to keeping up with all the developments and similar changes in wiping out the abortive coup conspiracies.

Speeches were also given on the party organization in the district, the conference's preparatory committee and the vanguards, and they stressed the role of the heroes who gave up their souls for the cause of the party and the homeland.

Speeches called for the need to raise continual vigilance, continue the night guards, and uncover the elements violating the laws.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-'ATTAS DISCUSSES DUTIES, ROLE OF PRESS

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 30 Mar 86 pp 1,6

[Article: "At a Meeting of the Chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium with Leaders and Cadres of Our Media Apparatus, the Media is Called Upon to Reflect the Concerns of the Masses and to Announce Their Accomplishments"]

[Text] Comrade Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, a member of the politburo and chairman of the supreme peoples' council presidium, saluted the role played by the masses' news media in revealing the political and ideological dimensions of the bloody 13 January plot and the economic, social, and political damage resulting from it and for pursuing the great effort of the masses in their participation in the activity of repairing the damage from the plot.

This was in his meeting yesterday in the office of the presidium with leaders and cadres of the various media apparatus in our country, where he reviewed with them the duties currently appointed for the media after the unsuccessful subversive plot of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique and the pedagogical and stimulative role he wants it to play in strengthening the workers and laborers to defend the Yemeni revolution and the gains that have been realized by the sweat of the laborers in the past years, and in correcting errors by means of objective evaluation by a very broad examination of the tasks of the next stage and treatment of the matter in a comprehensive look at all of the developments according to the nature of the stage.

Comrade al-'Attas confirmed that it is the duty of the media to reflect the concerns of the masses and to announce their accomplishments in increasing ties and relations between the different apparatus and the masses of the laborers, renewing emphasis on the necessity of avoiding anything that accentuates individual over joint work and the need to present anything that increases the unity of the party, its leadership and bases and their ties with the masses of the people and cooperation in candor and clarity in the face of the issues which concern them.

The meeting also reviewed the various steps and measures taken by the party and national leadership to work with the families of the martyrs, the dead, and the wounded. This is in a national and humane spirit, preserving for each

family in our society stability and a life of dignity. He also reviewed the steps which were taken concerning those who deceived them and participated in the unsuccessful subversive attempt-- each according to his error and action-- in accordance with the spirit of the constitution and the laws, which were not exceeded.

He also reviewed the efforts of the party and state on the Yemeni, Arab, and international level as an expression of its policy towards current national, Arab, and international issues in implementation of the policy of our party in the face of them.

Comrades 'Ali Ahmad al-Salami, the secretary of the supreme peoples' council presidium, and Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, the minister of culture and information, also attended the meeting.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

FERTILIZER AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 31 Mar 86 p 2

[Article: "Agreement to Import 6,000 Tons of Agricultural Fertilizer"]

[Text] The General Organization for Agricultural Services [GOAS] signed an agreement with the trade attache of the Bulgarian embassy in Aden for importing more than 6,000 tons of agricultural fertilizer. The fertilizer is to be distributed to the state's farms and cooperatives throughout the republic's governorates. Similar agreements will be signed with the Soviet and GDR trade attaches to strengthen the organization with machinery and other materials due to the needs of our country's agricultural sector.

Commenting on that, comrade 'Abdallah 'Umar Ibn Wabar, acting director general of GOAS, noted that the organization has met all its commitments for all of the state's farms and cooperatives in the governorates by providing them their requirements of agricultural materials and machinery.

On the activities of the GOAS and its mission which it has taken upon itself presently, comrade Ibn Wabar said that the organization, which was founded by cabinet decree No 14 of 1982, has assumed the task of importing and dispensing all the needs of the agricultural sector in Democratic Yemen through its knowledge of the demands of its governorates, and likewise through the organization's strong relationship with the socialist states, as regards importing and developing procedures. This is due the quality which is distinguished by agricultural materials and machinery of the socialist states. We can say that the organization has entered the field of agricultural mechanization through potato mowers, wheat mowers, fodder mowers, and other types of machinery which will minimize production costs.

It is worthwhile noting that the GOAS is one of the organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform whose role is offering agricultural services for the state's farms and cooperatives through seed, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and machinery.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

PAPER CARICATURES POLITICAL INFIGHTING IN PDRY

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 15 Feb 86 p 15

[Comment by Ibrahim Salamah in "From Friday to Friday" column: "Over What Items of The Communist Communique Did 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il Disagree?"]

[Text] A. Did you follow the news of South Yemen which is known as "Popular Democratic Yemen--Aden?"

B. I followed the news and became weary.

A. Why?

B. Frankly, I did not understand a thing.

A. Great. You have enough modesty (contrary to Arab custom) to qualify you to enter the kingdom of understanding and the world of knowledge.

First question: What exactly did you not understand?

B. I was under the impression that the country is governed by one party that believes in one ideology and has one goal. What then was all the fighting about? And what lies underground?

A. Karl Marx.

B. How is that?

A. The best of the Marxist theory can be summed up in a few slogans:

--Equitable distribution of surplus value generated by factory profits to be shared by workers.

--From each according to his ability to each according to his need.

--Workers' gradual control over all facilities and establishments of authority. And accordingly, the nullification of this authority over every

apparatus and manifestation (such as the army, police, fields of investigation, and what are similar to these apparatus and what are engendered by them).

B. Very well. So far your words are silver.

A. Wait a minute. Be careful of what you say (prices of silver have tumbled, just like the prices of oil. Next time liken my words to another metal). What happened in South Yemen is thesis and antithesis. This is the essence of the dialectical theory formed by Hegel and developed and explained by Karl Marx. For example, after 15 years of one-party rule derived from the aforesaid ideology, something happened which Marx did not expect and which theoreticians, who explained his doctrines, failed to treat. There was a drop in production which led to a value deficiency caused by the factories' failure in production, thus nullifying two elements of Marxist thought: production surplus which turned into production deficiency and the absence of a proletariat which is supposed to assume power in a state of farmers and laborers.

B. Your explanation is complicated, unlike the "Middle East" news.

A. How is that?

B. Your analysis does not have "action" or names of victims and how they were massacred.

A. Do you think I am a TV photographer? Listen and do not interrupt any more. As a punishment for your persistence in reading the "Middle East" broadcast, I will simplify the matter for you so that you may understand. If you own a citrus fruit orchard and, for some reason, have three consecutive bad seasons, what will your economic situation be?

B. Bankruptcy.

A. Elaborate a little.

B. A bad season means no goods for sale. Consequently I would either have to borrow from the agricultural bank to meet my payroll or to sell the orchard as is.

A. Now you're talking. But the difference between what you have described and the situation of a state like Democratic Yemen or other poor countries is that Yemen has taken its share from the banks, but production has not improved and it cannot sell the orchard because the principle of selling and buying the land by individuals is unacceptable and incompatible with the laws of dialectic and "dikatselik."

B. Uh, what is the solution?

A. Here is where quarrel becomes inevitable. Either destroy the banks or remove the workers in order to save the "ideological line," no matter what the victims may be.



B. I have begun to understand and I would like a little explanation and popular details.

A. In Marxist or Marxist-covered regimes, priorities fall as follows: Ideology first for it is the rock and the daily bread for the minds of the adherents, partisans, and beneficiaries. Second, the party line: the tactical method employed by comrades to implement the ideology, or to get it out of their system (no matter). The party line is one way ("unique sens" in French). In other words, it cannot be crossed in both directions. All passers-by travel in one bus or one truck. Anything else is called revision. Revisionism, deviation from the drawn line, is treason, a crime, leftist infancy, slipped disc toward the right and all other unholy laws and lexicons of traffic movements.

B. Then the whole story is a traffic accident?

A. Wait a minute. During the last 15 years, Yemen had the following "accomplishments": a drop in production which automatically has led to the dismissal of the "working class," thus making the government's tools (the police, army and the like) the only working forces in the country. And because the country does not have an opposition and opposition parties, they fought among themselves. Since teacher Marx and his student Mao emphasize "the continuation of the class struggle, even in the communist stage," then what about the stage of "advance socialist construction" within police agencies?

B. Is it not possible to solve these difficulties with the method of democratic dialogue?

A. What is wrong with you. You talk like a European correspondent. Democratic dialogue presupposes the existence of democracy. In one-dimensional and one-line regimes (as you have already explained), any misunderstanding or difference in evaluation leads to collision or the liquidation of the first speaker.

B. In your opinion, what did they discuss or, more accurately, what did the first side say?

A. My guess is that the first one talked about "production deficiency" in an attempt to reach a solution such as the creation of a working class, for example, such as planting party farmers in the Yemeni countryside, whereupon disagreements broke out in the Yemeni-Lebanese fashion, with arms.

B. It is said that 'Ali 'Antar was a "rightist" and 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il was a "leftist." What do you think?

A. Both were in the "same bus." The bus overturned due to driver error. 'Antar acknowledged the possibility of driver error. 'Abd-al-Fattah insisted on an investigation into the quality and quantity of the "gasoline" which led to this disaster on grounds that the driver is infallible.

B. To be quite honest, I still do not quite understand the reasons for the explosion.

A. Nor will you understand anything. Who told you that anyone "understood" the reasons. Moscow's leadership, who is an ally of the Adeni republic, did not understand either. The director of the KGB did not understand what happened and did not expect this kind of conflict. All what Moscow did was to bring in a crane to remove the bus and its occupants from the public road, namely the party line.

B. I still do not understand.

A. Do not be disheartened. I too did not understand, neither did others. God help those who understood anything from the first hour.

12502

CSO: 4404/294

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

EXPATRIATE AFFAIRS CHIEF--Comrade Dr Yasin Sa'id Na'man, member of the politburo and president of the council of ministers, issued a decree of the council of ministers appointing a director general for the general department for expatriate affairs whereby its first article called for the appointment of comrade 'Umar Ahmad Jibrān general director of the general department for Yemeni expatriate affairs. The decree's other articles concerned the date of its enactment and its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 23 Mar 86 p 1] 12502

CSO: 4404/307

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PAPER REPORTS DETAILS OF GENERAL STATE BUDGET

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Mar 86 pp 1-2

[Article: "The Leader President and Secretary General Approves the Laws Regarding the 1986 General State Budget and for the Public and Mixed Sectors" ]

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Conference approved yesterday Law No 6 of 1986 concerning the general budget for the state's administrative apparatus for FY86. The text is as follows:

In the name of the people. The president of the republic,

Taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 Mar 1986 which formed the Constituent People's Assembly [CPA] and was amended by the constitutional declaration of 17 Apr 1986,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration of 22 Apr 1986 carrying out the decision of the CPA on defining the form of the presidency of the state, its competences and its period,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 on amending several provisions of the previous constitutional declarations concerning the People's Assembly and the expansion of its competences,

And pursuant to Law No 6 of 1980 on determining the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year and after approval of the cabinet,

The Constituent People's Assembly has ratified the law whose text follows and we have approved and issued it.

Article 1. The revenues of the general state budget for FY86 are estimated to be 7,179,129,000 riyals only, in accordance with Table A.

Article 2. The total sum of expenses of the general state budget for FY86 are determined to be 9,944,396,000 riyals only, in accordance with Table B.

Article 3. The total net deficit in the general state budget for FY86 is 2,765,267,000 riyals only.

Article 4. The bases for implementing the general state budget for FY86 are attached to the law, and likewise the notations mentioned in the book of the law are an integral part of the law. All units of the administrative apparatus of the state are required to implement its provisions. All that conflicts with previous bases, laws, and decisions is void.

Article 5. The Ministry of Finance is issuing the necessary and regular instructions for implementing the law and within the limits of its provisions.

Article 6. This law is to take effect 1 January 1986 and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Republic Palace in Sanaa, 27 Jumada al-Thani 1406 A.H. (8 March 1986)

[Signed]

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Conference.

The brother, president, commander-in-chief also authorized Law No 7 of 1986 concerning the budget of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance for FY86. Its text is as follows:

In the name of the people. The president of the republic,

Taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 Feb 1986 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly [CPA] and amended by the constitutional declaration of 17 Apr 1986,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration of 22 Apr 1986 carrying out the decision of the CPA on defining the form of the presidency of the state, its competences, and its period,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 on amending several provisions of the previous constitutional declarations concerning the People's Assembly and the expansion of its competences,

And pursuant to Command Council decision in Law No 63 of 1963 on organizing the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance and defining its competences,

And pursuant to Law No 6 of 1980 defining the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year and after the approval of the cabinet,

The Constituent People's Assembly approves the text of the following law and we have authorized it and issued it.



Article 1. The expenditure appropriation of the budget of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance for FY86 is 59,230,000 riyals only.

Its revenues for this fiscal year, 1986, are estimated to be the same amount as its expenditures.

Article 2. The bases for implementing the general budget for the state's administrative apparatus for FY86 apply to the budget for the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance and its provisions must be implemented. Whatever conflicts with previous decisions, laws or bases is void.

Article 3: The Ministry of Finance will issue the necessary and regular instructions for implementing this law within the limits of its provisions.

Article 4. This law takes effect 1 January 1986 and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Republican Palace in Sanaa on 27 Jumada al-Thani 1406 A.H. (8 March 1986)

[Signed]

Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the general people's conference.

The brother president and commander-in-chief also authorized Law No 8 of 1986 concerning the budget of the public and mixed sectors for FY86. Its text is as follows:

In the name of the people. The president of the republic,

Taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 Feb 1986 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly [CPA] and amended by the constitutional declaration of 17 Apr 1986,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration of 22 Apr 1986 carrying out the decision of the CPA on defining the form of the presidency of the state, its competences, and its period,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 on amending several provisions of the previous constitutional declarations concerning the People's Assembly and the expansion of its competences,

And pursuant to republic decree, Law No 31 of 1974 on establishing and organizing the Ministry of Finance and defining its specializations and the amendments thereto,

And pursuant to Law No 61 of 1980 defining the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year and after the approval of the cabinet,

The Constituent People's Assembly approves the law whose text follows and we authorized and issued it.

Article 1 (A). The total appropriations of the budgets for the public and mixed sectors for each of expenditures and revenues for FY86 is estimated at 13,883,218,000 riyals only, in accordance with the general framework of the budgets of the two sectors accompanying this law.

(B). The total appropriations of the budgets of the public sector for each of expenditures and revenues for FY86 is estimated at 9,366,382,000 riyals only, in accordance with the general framework for the budgets of the public sector and tables nos 4,6,8, and 10 accompanying this law.

The total appropriations of the budgets of the mixed sector for each of expenditures and revenues for FY86 is estimated at 4,516,836,000 riyals only, in accordance with the general framework for the budgets of the mixed sector and tables nos 5,7,9, and 11 accompanying this law.

Article 2 (A). The total surplus of current activities of the public and mixed sectors for FY86 is estimated at 1,257,795,000 riyals.

The government's total share of the total of this surplus is estimated at 763,109,000 riyals.

(B). The surplus of current activities for the public sector for FY86 is estimated at 997,768,000 riyals only. The government's total share of this surplus is estimated at 724,579,000 riyals only.

(C). The surplus of the current activities of the mixed sector for FY86 is estimated at 260,027,000 riyals only.

The government's share of this surplus is estimated at 38,530,000 riyals only, in accordance with the two tables, nos 14 and 15, accompanying this law.

Article 3. It is up to each unit of the units of the public and mixed sectors to pay the government's portion of the surplus from current activities in the amount of 25 percent of the assessment on the first day of the months of April, July, and October. This is provided that the remainder be paid during the first 3 months of the following year, in accordance with what results from the account of current operations.

Profits and losses and the general budget / all installments are to be paid on the dates set by the Yemeni Central Bank /C/ the public government.  
[paragraph as given]

Article 4. The announced deficit of trading activities for the service organizations of the public sector for FY86 is estimated at 167,588,000 riyals, in accordance with table no 11 accompanying this law.

Article 5. The contribution of the budget/contributions of the government for the public sector for FY86 are estimated at 415,627,000 riyals, in accordance with tables nos 11 and 13 accompanying this law.

Article 6. The other capital contributions for the public and mixed sectors for FY86 are estimated at 61,910,000 riyals, including 53,760,000 riyals for

the public sector and 8,150,000 riyals for the mixed sector, according to table no 16 accompanying this law.

Article 7. The Ministry of Finance will undertake to pay the announced current deficit and the capital contributions for units of the public sector in accordance with the actual reserves for each direction within the limits of the appropriations estimated for each of them, and in accordance with the provisions and bases for implementing the budgets of the mixed and private sectors.

Article 8. All the organizations of the public and mixed sector are responsible for the appropriations determined for them for FY86 in accordance with this law and the tables accompanying it. All of them are forbidden from exceeding these appropriations, regardless of the situation, while observing what is in Article 21 of the bases for implementing the budgets of the public and mixed sectors which accompanies this law.

Article 9. The bases for implementing for budgets of the public and mixed sectors accompanying this law (Article 51) and the general and special notations incorporated in the budgets of the public and mixed sectors are to be considered an integral part of this law and the organizations of the public and mixed sectors are obliged to implement their provisions. Whatever conflicts with previous laws, decisions, and bases is void.

Article 10. The Ministry of Finance is to issue the necessary and regular instructions for implementing this law within its limits.

Article 11. This law takes effect 1 January 1986 and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Republican Palace in Sanaa on 27 Jumada al-Thani 1406 A.H.(8 March 1986)

[Signed]

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Conference.

The brother president, who is the commander-in-chief and secretary general, also authorized Law No 9 of 1986 regarding the pensions budget for FY86. The text is as follows:

In the name of the people. The president of the republic,

Taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 Mar 1986 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly [CPA] and amended by the constitutional declaration of 17 Apr 1986,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration of 22 Apr 1986 carrying out the decision of the CPA on defining the form of the presidency of the state, its competences, and its period,

And pursuant to the constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 on amending several provisions of the previous constitutional declarations concerning the People's Assembly and the expansion of its competences,

And pursuant to Law No 4 of 1981 on establishing the Ministry of Civil Services and Administrative Reform,

And pursuant to Law No 26 of 1982 establishing the civil pension fund,

And pursuant to Law No 6 of 1980 on determining the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year and after the approval of the cabinet,

The Constituent People's Assembly approves the text of the following law and we have authorized and published it:

Article 1. The appropriations for the expenditures for the pension fund for FY86 is estimated at 282,638,000 riyals.

Its revenues for this fiscal year, 1986, are set at the same amount as its expenditures.

Article 2. The bases for implementing the budgets of the public land mixed sectors for FY86 apply to the budget of the pension fund and it is required that implementation of their provisions be commensurate with the nature of its work.

Article 3. The board chairman of the fund will issue the necessary and regular instructions for implementing this law within the limits of its provisions.

Article 4. This law takes effect 1 January 1986 and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Republican Palace in Sanaa on 27 Jumada al-Thani 1406 A.H. (8 March 1986)

[Signed]

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Conference.

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CSO: 4404/309



YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

CRITICISM OF UN AMBASSADOR BASINDWAH

Cairo SAWT AL-JANUB AL-YAMANI in Arabic 15 Mar 86 pp 30-31

[Article: "AL-TADAMUN and The Truth": Cairo SAWT AL-JANUB AL-YAMANI in Arabic; monthly organ of the United National Front of South Yemen]

[Text] AL-TADAMUN magazine, which we respect and highly esteem, came out in three consecutive editions with political commentaries about the bloody events in our southern region in particular and the history of the Yemeni national movement in general. This is natural and any magazine has the right to follow events and to comment on and publish whatever articles it pleases about any national movement in the Arab world. What is unnatural, however, is to deviate from the truth which AL-TADAMUN has been known to strive for and uphold, as it has been known for its belief in revealing the "truth," no matter how bitter or harsh!

In the first two editions of 25 January and 2 February 1986, articles published in AL-TADAMUN were viewed as an account of Aden's bloody events even though the magazine's guest unfortunately chose to defame, through insinuations and innuendos, fighters, revolutionaries and liberals, who did not put down their arms until their homeland was purged of colonialism, be it direct colonialism or the indirect kind hiding behind economic or ideological colonialism or destructive ideological invasion. Your interviewee, whose name had not yet been revealed, did not stop at that, but had the audacity to defame, by insuation at times and by name and clear allusion at other times, national organizations such as the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in South Yemen and its leaders. He then became immersed up to his ears in many contradictions. And although we were able to identify the author, or more accurately AL-TADAMUN's guest, whose name was withheld in the first two editions and only his occupation described, the magazine in its 3rd edition spared the others the trouble of speculating about this "guest" by mentioning his name. He is Muhammad Salim Basindwah, chief of the YAR mission to the UN in New York. This is when others were baffled and surprised. As for us, the national elements in South Yemen, we were not surprised or astonished because we have known him since he had the honor to work with us as a colleague in the national movement in the sixties and we had the honor of denuding and exposing him for what he truly is, and indeed, confronting him with his organizational mistakes which, unfortunately, were the reason for his withdrawal from national action after he became convinced that the national organization, to



which he had the honor of belonging, was no longer close to the government, but rather had to embark on another long struggle which Basindwah could not handle. The only thing he could do in the face of this dangerous juncture and of being held accountable for his mistakes, which are many, was to court favor with his comrade, childhood friend and great teacher, as he always used to say, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, to hide behind him. It was al-Asnaj who was primarily responsible for paving the way for Basindwah to hold the highest offices, as he put it to AL-MAJALLAH, even though he now denies al-Asnaj's favor. Rather he did not hesitate to plot and conspire against his teacher and leader, as he had snubbed his first leader in the fifties, the late Muhammad 'Ali al-Jifri, president of the League, who was the primary financial supporter of Basindwah and his first newspaper, AL-NUR, and his second one, AL-HAQIQAH," later turning against al-Jifri and the League and turning his second newspaper into a voice for attacking al-Jifri through Arab Nationalists' Movement writers such as the late Salim Zayn and Nur-al-Din Qasim. When al-Asnaj emerged as a union and national leader, Mr Basindwah did not hesitate to join him and his political party, utilizing his newspaper to attack others.

We never thought that Basindwah, who represents the mother country, the YAR, in the UN, would speak about South Yemen today in 1986 after remaining away during the most difficult circumstances experienced by the Liberation Front organization in 1967. For his words today, although said in his private capacity, could be taken by some as reflecting the position of his government, especially since the Yemeni homeland in the south last January was simmering with momentous events and the people were facing a tragic ordeal, catastrophies, and tragedies heretofor unknown to the country. All of a sudden, Basindwah is coming out with delirious statements and incoherent talk, praising himself and claiming that he alone was the leader and the struggler, he alone brought in arms and supplied the commandos and he alone was held by the British authorities for "four" hours and exiled to Egypt through Ethiopia and Sudan, forgetting that he had praised the British high commissioner who gave him tickets and spending money. This is what he revealed in his press interview after leaving Aden at a time when it was reported that he tried to negotiate with the British administration behind the Liberation Front leadership which has rejected his position. He, however, denied this report categorically.

All this Basindwah told to AL-TADAMUN magazine. We did not want to take him on or reply to him, leaving him to the daydreams he used to deal out in 1967 to our university students in Cairo by promising them positions (!) as though independence and government were in his hands. But we are here only replying to him in his own way, by asking, as others are, why Basindwah remained silent for an eternity to utter blasphemy today! Was he aspiring to return to the South to sit in high positions and did he believe his dreams. He always used to say that 'Umar al-Jawi had told him that President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad always praised his stances to others and had no objection to his return, particularly following his heroic stance toward al-Asnaj!

No Basindwah! We chose not to answer you out of respect for what you represent, for you still hold an official position in our northern region and mother country. But for you to speak in these circumstances, when our people

and our country are being subjected to catastrophies, disasters, bloody events, and historical tragedy, and to conjure imaginary national stances at a time when our fighters are still alive and still carrying the weapon of faith and struggle and have not abandoned their cause for a position or fame, as you have done; we will no longer remain silent. We will pay you back double and you must remember that you are still faced with responsibility for your mistakes and excesses in the Liberation Front since 1966 and you will pay for your crimes against the fighters and the commandos and for mistakes which contributed to the Liberation Front's defeat and the National Front's victory and the country's ruin at the hands of ignorant children who have brought it to this tragic state!

History grants respite but does not forget. We will reveal all the facts. Then you will remember the colleagues and fighters you abandoned when you sat in ministerial positions in the northern part of the country but who have not abandoned their people's causes and remain in the same national ranks, until God realizes something that has been ordained, because they believed in a principle and never used material greed or positions as a means to their goal. That is why many have fallen and others will fall. But real fighters and loyal national will remain the pillars of their countries and the good example to their people until the goals and aspirations of their masses are realized so that peace and stability may prevail and love among citizens may reign in a unified Yemeni nation, or die without them because men are metal.

Only genuine metal can persevere in the face of adversity!

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CSO: 4404/294

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

LOCAL COUNCIL'S NEWSPAPER--Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Arab Republic, recently chaired an expanded meeting of the board members of the Local Councils General Federation which was created in Yemen at the end of 1985 by election. The Yemeni president heads this federation whose board is composed of federation board chairmen and the presidents and elected members of the federation's 11 branches scattered in the governorates, in addition to four ministers by virtue of their positions--the ministers of development, interior, finance, and the Central Accounting Office--and nine undersecretaries of state for education, health, public works, communications, information, the waqf [religious endowment], housing and municipalities, social affairs and labor, and electric power and water. The general future plan of the local councils in Yemen, whose term is set at 3 years, was discussed. The local councils have a total of 17,000 members and there are 213 local councils. Council members, by force of law, combine the developmental function of their local council membership with their political function as members of the General Popular Conference. Local councils in Yemen are expected to put out a newspaper as of the beginning of April. [Text] [London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Feb-4 Mar 86 p 9] 12502

CSO: 4404/294

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIETS LAUNCH ATTACKS ON MUJAHIDIN POSITIONS

Key Bases in Southeast Targeted

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Apr. 22 (Dispatches) — Thousands of Soviet and Afghan troops closed in Tuesday on key Mujahideen bases in south-eastern Afghanistan.

Mujahideen leaders and other sources said Soviet and Afghan forces, including elite commando units, had stepped up fighting in Paktia Province in an effort to capture Mujahideen fortifications in the area.

The Mujahideen are fighting the Communist government of Afghanistan, which is supported by an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops. The government rarely allows Western reporters into Afghanistan and reports from inside the country cannot be checked independently.

A major offensive was mounted against the bases earlier this month, but the attackers had pulled back a little at the end of the last week and the Mujahideen said their situation had improved.

Mujahideen commanders said heavy fighting had resumed early this week and waves of Soviet and Afghan jet fighter-bombers and Mi-24 helicopter gunships were attacking their positions. The Mujahideen handful of anti-aircraft cannons and heavy

machine guns were unable to cope with the air attacks, they said.

"The fighting is very bad. The situation is not clear and we are awaiting word," said one Mujahideen commander, who like others insisted on anonymity.

Two thousand Soviet troops and some 5,000 Afghan government soldiers were involved in the attacks, and the government-held town of Khost was heavily reinforced, Mujahideen officials said.

Report Denied

The air and ground attacks were concentrated on the main Mujahideen base at Zhawar, a large underground complex heavily defended by Mujahideen tank and artillery units.

Some Mujahideen sources in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar said Tuesday there were reports that Zhawar had been captured and its garrison wiped out. But the reports were hazy and the situation in Paktia was very confused, they said.

The Afghan government claimed in a broadcast Monday night that its security forces had smashed Mujahideen forces around Zhawar and cleared the area of Mujahideen after inflicting severe losses and capturing many weapons. In other

22 May 1986

recent reports, Radio Kabul has claimed government forces have martyred more than 1,000 Mujahideen in the fighting in Paktia.

Officials of the Yunis Khalis Organization, one of seven main Mujahideen groups, which controls Zhawar, denied that the base had been captured and said its forces were holding Soviet and Afghan troops back. The officials, who were reluctant to provide details, said at least 120 of their men had

been killed in the fighting around Zhawar in recent days.

Yunis Khalis officials said their forces had inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet and Afghan forces, but they had no specific figures.

The Afghan Information Center, an independent group based in Peshawar that monitors events in Afghanistan, confirmed there was very heavy fighting around Zhawar and that the position was in danger.

#### Mujahidin Stronghold Reported 'Overrun'

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Apr. 23 (Dispatches) — Thousands of Soviet and Afghan troops continued to attack Mujahideen positions in southeastern Afghanistan on Wednesday amid reports that elite commando units had overrun and captured a key Mujahideen stronghold.

Afghan Mujahideen groups reported heavy fighting in Paktia Province and said Soviet and Afghan fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships were bombarding their positions and causing heavy losses.

"There has been very heavy destruction. The situation is bad," said one Afghan source.

An estimated 3,000 Soviet troops and some 5,000 Afghan Army troops, supported by scores of tanks and waves of jets and helicopters, were keeping the Mujahideen under constant air and artillery attacks, the Mujahideen groups reported.

Three Mujahideen groups reported from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar that the Mujahideen stronghold at Zhawar had been overrun and destroyed in the past two days. Scores of Mujahideen, had been martyred and injured, and the survivors had been pushed back, representatives of the groups told reporters.

"They have totally destroyed the base," said an official of Jamiat-i-Islami, one of the seven Mujahideen groups fighting the Afghan government.

The Yunis Khalis group, which controls the Zhawar base, said Tuesday its forces still were holding on to the facility although there was heavy fighting around it. Officials of the group could not be reached Wednesday.

#### Major Attack Expected

A senior Mujahideen commander, speaking on condition he not be named, said the Islamic freedom fighters had lost 200 to 300 men, with many more wounded.



Mujahideen commanders said Soviet and Afghan forces had suffered heavy losses, but were unable to provide any figures.

Pro-government forces also were attacking Mujahideen positions around Bari and Zazi in Paktia. The National Islamic Front of Afghanistan said it was expecting a major attack on its main positions at Ghulam Khan, east of Zhawar.

"The government radio has been saying they will attack us," said Muhammed Gailani, a top NIFA commander.

The Afghan Information Center, an independent group based in Peshawar that monitors events in Afghanistan, said it was getting numerous reports of fighting in Paktia and that Soviet and Afghan jets were repeatedly bombing Mujahideen positions.

The Mujahideen had lost large amounts of weapons and equipment in the bombing and their handful of anti-aircraft weapons were unable to stop the air attacks, center officials said.

Soviet and Afghan forces began major attacks in Paktia during the first week of April. After a lull last week, the Soviet and Afghan forces, with new reinforcements, stepped up their offensive and surrounded Mujahideen positions near the Pakistani frontier.

#### **Assault on Military Post**

In other developments, Western diplomats said authorities in Kabul had

tightened security to prevent anti-government violence prompted by anniversary celebrations of Afghanistan's April 27, 1978, Marxists' takeover.

The Mujahideen distributed leaflets warning they would attack two military posts near Kabul and step up strikes prior to the anniversary it was reported.

As warned, the Mujahideen assaulted a joint Soviet and Afghan government military post at Charikar, about 30 miles (45 km) north of Kabul, killing four Soviet troops and capturing two others, the report added.

All the Afghan government troops at the post deserted during the fighting and assisted the Mujahideen against the Soviets, the report said.

The report also said widespread desertions in the Afghan Army have left most units well under strength.

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CSO: 4600/301

AFGHANISTAN

KESHTMAND'S USSR VISIT REPORTEDLY OPENS 'NEW PHASE' IN TIES

LD302132 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 30 Apr 86

["Press Review"]

[Text] Kabul, 29 April, BAKHTAR--The official visit of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers to the Soviet Union, opened a new phase for the development of friendly relations and fraternal ties between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, writes DAILY HEYWAD commenting on the result of S.A. Keshtmand's visit to the USSR.

The DAILY adds that there are over 100 projects functioning under the technical assistance of the Soviet Union. These projects, the daily points out, play a significant role in the consolidation of the national economy. In the first post-revolution socio-economic development plan 130 important projects have been envisaged.

The results of the talks between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have provided new ground for the implementation of the first post-revolution five year development plan.

HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR writes in its editorial that the visit of the high-ranking Afghan delegation headed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand certainly has a determining role in the Afghan-Soviet relations. It can be said with confidence that the ever-further consolidation of the Afghan-Soviet friendly relation play a constructive role in helping the DRA to rebuff the hostile aggressions and the undeclared war which has been waged by the U.S. imperialism and its accomplices against Afghanistan.

The signing of agreements, the daily adds, on economic and trade cooperation enjoys a historical and profound importance. This is especially significant under the conditions when the imperialist and reactionary countries are intensively continuing their undeclared war against the DRA.

The DRA gives a high importance to the question of ensuring security in Asia. To achieve this end, the DRA has set forth positive proposals confirming the Soviet's initiatives on ensuring security in Asia. The state of the DRA believes that the terms agreed between the governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union about the stage-by-stage withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, provided a political solution is reached terminating any kind of armed intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA, is of paramount significance.

22 May 1986

## AFGHANISTAN

## OPPOSITION GROUP REPRESENTATIVES CONDEMN GENEVA TALKS

LD031507 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] 3 May, IRNA--Representatives from nine opposition Afghan parties and organizations in Tehran condemned Saturday the seventh round of Geneva peace talks, attended by delegates from the United States, Pakistan and the U.N. Under Secretary General.

The Mujahideen representatives said they would reject any solution which did not embody the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, payment for reparation and return of Afghan refugees.

Afghanistan's Nasr, Islamic Revolution's guards, Islamic Movement, Islamic Campaign, and Movement of Islamic Revolution attended the round table conference with the press. They said the Soviet Union defeated in both military and political fronts, has hatched a new plot under the name of Geneva National Reconciliation Conference with the help of the United States.

The United States is also one of the arrogant powers which never considers the interests of the Third World including Afghanistan, they said.

The representatives warned that Afghan Mujahideen would attack the interests of the Soviet Union throughout the world in the near future.

Although expressing gratitude to the Pakistani Government for housing millions of Afghan refugees, they said, the Islamabad government should not represent Afghan people. Over 1.5 million Afghan refugees are living in Iran especially in eastern parts of the country.

Meanwhile the Coordination Council for Afghan Refugees in Korassan province said last year it spent rials 80 million (\$1 million) on providing living facilities for the refugees. It provided the refugees with drinking water, schools, bakery and public baths.

/12913

CSO: 44600/303

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MUJAHIDIN'S SUCCESSES REPORTED--Clashes broke out last week in Farah Province between Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and government forces, during which the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed the frontier forces commander in the Afghan (Kalaka Nadhar) area. Afghan sources have said that during this clash, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries destroyed two military vehicles, killed seven officers of the Afghan regime army, and wounded 17 others. A member of the Afghan regime army surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries recently destroyed four tanks of the joint Soviet-Afghan forces and killed no less than 30 of their troops. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also attacked a post belonging to the Soviet occupation forces in (Karika), the center of (?Faryab) Province, with ground-to-ground rockets, killing 18 of the Soviet forces and destroying two of their tanks. Another group of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also attacked a checkpoint of the joint Soviet-Afghan forces in (Kork Safi) area, capturing arms and setting fire to the checkpoint. [Text] [Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Apr 86 GF] /12913

FIGHTING REPORTED IN NORTH--The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have carried out operations against the invading Soviet troops and the forces of the ruling regime in Afghanistan in the provinces of (Kamanghan) and Badakhshan in northern Afghanistan. They killed 85 soldiers of the joint forces, captured 15, and destroyed 2 tanks of the joint forces. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have also carried out other operations against the joint forces in the province of (Midan) west of Kabul. They destroyed six guard posts of the aggressive forces. They killed and wounded more than 87 troops in these guard posts, and captured large quantities of weapons and other military equipment. [Text] [Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Apr 86 GF] /12913

PAKISTANIS KILLED IN RAIDS--Islamabad, Apr 18 (UPI)--Afghan troops killed four Pakistanis and injured 10 others in two separate raids across the Afghan-Pakistani border in the past two days, a government spokesman said Thursday. The Afghan armed forces fired six tank rounds Tuesday across the border near Lakka Tigga post 155 miles (250 km) west of Islamabad, the spokesman said. On Wednesday, he said, four Pakistanis died and 10 were injured when four Afghan aircraft dropped four bombs on Saidgi village 185 miles (300 km) southwest of Pakistan. The Afghan charge d'affaires, Sharif Foad, was summoned to the foreign office in Islamabad Thursday morning to hear a strong protest in which the government said the attacks were unprovoked. Foad was asked to tell his government that unless such attacks cease "the entire responsibility for the serious consequences will rest on the Kabul authorities." [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Apr 86 p 1] /12851

SEVERING GUERRILLA ROUTES INTENDED--New Delhi (Dispatches)--Afghan Mujahideen shot down eight helicopters in eastern Afghanistan during a major Soviet offensive aimed at severing guerrilla supply and escape routes, reliable sources reported Tuesday (April 15). "Both sides suffered numerous casualties," in the 3-week-old fighting near the garrison town of Khost in eastern Paktia Province, about 80 miles (130 km) southeast of Kabul, said the report. The report said Soviet troops were leading the offensive--the biggest military operation so far this year. The operation is aimed at severing guerrilla supply and escape routes from neighboring Pakistan, the report said. Mujahideen sources have confirmed heavy fighting in Paktia, but details of the report could not be independently verified as journalist rarely have been allowed into Afghanistan since the Soviets invaded in December 1979. One report said 24 bodies recently were brought back from Khost to Kabul, but did not say to which side the dead belonged. Between April 7 and 10, "Eight helicopters were shot down in the province," one report said. The fighting has prompted both sides to dispatch reinforcements to the area. Some 115,000 Soviet troops currently are based in the country to help the government fight Islamic freedom fighters. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Apr 86 p 5] /12851

CSO: 4600/301



IRAN

**RELATIONS WITH FRG, FRANCE REPORTED; U.S. NAVY 'WARNED'**

London MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC DIGEST/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 19 Apr 86 pp 14-15

**[Text] West Germany Wins Power Job**

A DM 50 million (\$217 million) contract to supply equipment for the four-by-440 MW Fars steam generator power plant has been won by West Germany's Brown, Boveri & Compagnie (BBC). It intends to appoint subcontractors in August 1986 for \$55 million of the work.

The overall value of the Fars project, near Shiraz in the south, will be close to \$500 million. The client, state-owned power generator and transmission company Tavanir, is evaluating bids for the boilers, cooling tower and condenser.

The shortlist for the boiler contract includes a joint venture of Japan's Marubeni Corporation and Hitachi; an unidentified local company in joint venture with Japan's Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Company, West Germany's Deutsche Babcock, and a consortium of Austria's Waagner-Biro and West Germany's Borsig.

Hungary's Energy Management Institute and Transelektro Foreign Trade Company are tipped by contractors for the order to supply the condenser. Hungary signed a \$300 million deal to supply Heller-type condensers to Iran in 1983.

BBC's contract has a 72-month completion time; installation will be done by the client. Discussions about oil barter payment collapsed, and the contract will be paid in cash - without cover from the West Germany export credit agency Hermes, says BBC. The company has almost completed the four-by-440-MW Neka plant and the four-by-150-MWT Tus plant; it has never had any payments problems with Iran.

**Guilan Power Plant to be Tendered Soon**

An \$800 million contract to build a 1,000-MW combined-cycle power station at Guilan, in the north, is expected to be tendered soon, say contractors. Tender documents have been prepared by the client - state power company

Tavanir - but the project is awaiting the formal go-ahead from the Energy Ministry. Says one construction manager: "It could be a matter of weeks or months."

The Guilan project is one of a series of 1,000-MW plants aimed at raising electricity capacity to 36,000 MW by 2000. Two stations are being built at Hamadan and Fars (see above); two more sites have yet to be chosen.

#### France Courts Iran

France's new right-wing government is making the most concerted effort yet to normalise relations with Iran. The government has welcomed the move, but insists that France first takes steps to prove its sincerity.

The secretary-general of France's External Relations Ministry, Andre Ross - who has been in Tehran since 9 April - has suggested a visit soon by minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. In addition, Raimond, President Mitterrand, national assembly (parliament) speaker Jacques Chaban-Delmas and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac have sent messages to their Iranian counterparts.

The messages are the strongest expression yet of France's desire to improve relations with Iran, while maintaining its close links with Iraq. In a 9 April policy statement, Chirac said: "We hope to re-establish a dialogue with Iran, a great country for which France harbours no hostility."

Ross has been meeting senior officials in Tehran, a sign that his talks are going well. He extended his four day-stay for further discussions about Iran's demands for France to adopt a neutral role in the Gulf war, to end its support for Iranian opposition groups based in Paris, and to return about \$1,500 million in frozen Iranian assets. Another French team will visit in a few weeks to work out details of the repayment.

There is no indication that France will reduce its weapons supplies to Iraq; diplomats in Paris say it is probably too closely involved with Baghdad to end the link. However, support for Iranian opposition groups has been reduced in the past 12 months.

France's interest in improved relations with Iran is believed to be connected with the fate of eight French hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Another factor is Iran's recent successes in the Gulf war.

#### US Navy Warned

The government has warned US naval vessels to keep out of the Iranian half of the Gulf. They face "decisive military action" if they enter the Iranian-declared "security zone," navy commander Mohammad Hossain Malekzadegan declared on 10 April.

The warning follows a Gulf tour by US Vice-President George Bush, who said Washington would act to defend the free flow of trade in the region and would be willing to help Gulf states to defend themselves in the event of a

spillover of the Gulf war. The US would not wait for an invitation to intervene militarily, Bush added.

In January, the Iranian navy intercepted a US freighter to inspect it for cargo destined for Iraq. The US reacted mildly, saying the action was in accordance with international law.

Malekzadegan said US navy ships in the southern half of the Gulf have not yet entered the security zone. "Whenever they approach that line, we tell them on our communication equipment that they will face the danger of being destroyed if they enter."

Defining the line as roughly bisecting the Gulf, Malekzadegan said all foreign shipping should stay out of the security zone. Iran will continue to intercept "suspicious" cargo vessels entering the Gulf, about 10 ships are checked each day for cargo bound for Iraq.

One vessel - the 23,168-dwt lbn al-Beitar, which was escorted to an Iranian port in November 1985 - will be confiscated as war booty, Malekzadegan added. The ship is owned by Iraq, but was sailing "under the flag of another country (Kuwait) to avoid confiscation." The Kuwaiti owners of the cargo have two months to collect their goods. Four UK officers who remained on board have been told to go home; the other 39 crew members including four Iraqi nationals, have already been repatriated.

#### In Brief

Iran Chemcial Development Company (ICDC) president Hirochi Watada arrived in Tehran in mid-April for talks about the future of the \$4,000 million Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company (IJPC) joint venture at Bandar Khomeini. He is expected to tell Iran's national Petrochemical Company (NPC) - ICDC's partner in the venture - that the Japanese are ready to resume work on the incomplete plant only when "definite terms" have been agreed.

Brazil's Industria Papel Simao has a \$6 million contract to supply 10,000 tons of newsprint and writing paper.

Yugoslavia's Mariborska Livarna has a \$4 million contract to supply valves.

Austria's Chemie Linz and Chemokomplex of Hungary are providing engineering and production processes for a pharmaceuticals factory to be built in Tehran by state-owned Daroupakhsh. The plant is a pilot scheme to produce raw materials; it is being set up with help from the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

The UK's Metal & Pipeline Endurance (MAPEL) has an order worth more than L100,000 (\$146,000) to supply 1,500 magnesium anodes. Client is National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The US's Eli Lilly & Company is having talks with the National Iranian Industries Organisation about the resumption of pharmaceutical supplies and possible transfer of insulin production technology.

A 12-channel microwave communications link with Pakistan opened on 12 April the system can be doubled in capacity.

The number of telephone subscribers has reach 1.5 million, up from 900,000 before the revolution, according to Posts, Telephones & Telegraphs Ministry. More than 3,000 of the country's 70,000 or so villages now have telephone links, compared with 300 before 1979, the ministry adds.

Air services between Rasht and Mashad started in early April.

Saudi Arabia has denied Turkish press reports that it has asked Turkey to stop trading with Iran.

The Mines & Metals Ministry will continue to carry out it development programme despite the fall in oil prices, minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi says.

Seven million tons of goods were unloaded at the ports of Shahid Bahonar and Shahid Rajai at Bandar Abbas in the Iranian year ended 20 March. This was 22 per cent more than in the previous year. Shahid Rajai opened only recently.

Rice imports will be reduced by 100,000 tons, to 400,000 tons, in the Iranian year started 21 March, Agriculture Minister Abbas Ali Zali says.

Sixty fishing boats will be leased in an effort to increase this year's catch, the Agriculture Ministry says.

About \$60 million worth of refractory bricks are imported each year, the Mines & Metals Ministry says. Domestic production of 50,000 tons meets only about 40 per cent of demand.

Responsibility for the National Helicopter Services Company has been transferred to the National Iranian Oil Compnay (NOIC), from the Defence Ministry, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reports.

The tax on cinema tickets has been increased by 2 per cent to help to finance young film-makers, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reports.

A mass grave at Hoveyzieh has been found to contain the bodies of 40 civilians shot during the Iraqi occupation, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reports. Another grave, containing the bodies of 20 women, was found earlier, the agency adds.

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CSO: 4600/302



IRAN

BRIEFS

**UNEMPLOYMENT REACHES 15 PERCENT**--About 15 percent of the potential workforce is unemployed, according to latest official figures. This puts the number out of work at nearly 2 million, of a working population of 12.5 million. The statistical yearbook for the Iranian year 21 March 1984-20 March 1985 gives the total population as 43.4 million. A traditionally high growth rate of about 3 percent a year would indicate a present figure of nearly 45 million. The yearbook values imports for the year ended 20 March 1985 at IR 1.6 million million (\$19,600 million). Leading categories include machinery, at 25 percent plus, vehicle kits (nearly 22 percent) and iron and steel just below 11 percent. Non-oil exports earned \$365 million; no figure is given for oil sales. [Text] [London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 22-28 Mar 86 p 17] /12851

**NPC TO STOP LOAN REPAYMENT**--Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) says it recently stopped repayment of a Japanese loan because its Japanese partner in the \$4,000 million Bandar Khomeini petrochemicals complex refused to pay its share. This is the first official comment on reports from Tokyo that Iran had failed to meet a repayment deadline (MEED 22:2:86). [Text] [London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 22-28 Mar 86 p 17] /12851

**EXPANSION OF POWER SOURCES**--Nuclear power technology has received a qualified endorsement from majlis (parliament) Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the most influential officials in the republic. In a message to the first conference on nuclear sciences and technology, held at the unfinished Bushehr nuclear power plant, Rafsanjani said Iran is determined to have its own, independent nuclear technology, but that this should be developed "in parallel with the expansion of other fields of industry and vast natural resources"--presumably oil and gas. [Text] [London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 22-28 Mar 86 p 17] /12851

**HOSTAGE SEIZURES CONDEMNED**--Iran condemns the seizure of hostages because such actions violate Islamic law, deputy prime minister Alireza Moayeri says, Moayeri was speaking in Stockholm, where he represented Iran at the funeral of Sweden's assassinated prime minister Olof Palme. He was replying to questions about the kidnapping of eight Frenchmen in Lebanon; he denied any Iranian involvement. In Tehran, France's ambassador to Tunisia, Eric Rouleau, is reported to have held talks with officials in mid-March, after an unannounced arrival at Mehrabad airport, Rouleau, previously Middle East correspondent for the Paris daily Le Monde, developed extensive contacts with revolutionary leaders in 1979-80. [Text] [London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 22 Mar 86 p 17] /12851



SRI LANKA

# GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR FINANCIAL SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Apr 86 pp 1, 12

[Article by Rohan Perera]

[Text] In a special report presented to Parliament last week by the PAC Chairman, W.P.B. Dissanayake, District Minister for Kandy, the PAC has pointed out that the existing system of conventions which depends mainly on Treasury control has failed to provide an effective control and building up of financial anarchy.

The report was submitted following an in-depth study undertaken by the PAC on the basis of a questionnaire issued to responsible officials in the Treasury, chief accounting officers, accounting officers and other parties.

The PAC has observed that of late, the incidence of authorised excesses, frauds, errors, irregularities, etc. were being brought before it in greater magnitude coupled with an apparent disregard by the chief accounting officers and accounting officers for proper financial administration.

"Although the Treasury views these with concern it appeared to us that the Treasury is unable to effectively contain this trend and ensure an effective and efficient financial administration. Also evidencing the effects of program and advance account activities, in our view assumes greater importance to-day, in view of the ever increasing outlay on welfare and economic development activities," the PAC stated.

In its recommendations, the committee states that different countries have adopted different systems of public financial administration.

However, we recommend the following which in our view are some of the remedial measures suitable for our country and which could be adopted to ensure an effective system of financial administration, its states.

Parliament be directly involved in estimating and budget execution. The examination of the estimates and the progress of control of budget execution could be undertaken by select committees of Parliament. Procedures for such committees could be laid down in the standing orders of the House.

Enactment of a Public Financial Administration Act.

The government financial system comprises the following basic funds and accounts - consolidated fund, contingencies fund, other statutory fund, advance accounts, administrative funds and deposit accounts.

This structure is considered inadequate to areas not compatible with the present day requirements to provide an effective control over public finances.

For instance, foreign aid which has become a significant feature in our financial system has been merged with the consolidated fund resulting in accounting deficiencies.

The system of advance accounts has become an inappropriate and redundant arrangement which is not capable of being effectively controlled. These have become blank cheques in the hands of the public service.

The estimates relating to other statutory funds do not come before Parliament. Administrative funds appear to be a measure resorted to by the authorities concerned to keep off the incapacities of the system to cater to their specific needs, in that there is no legal basis for these funds and authorities appear to be liberally resorting to these as the existing system does not provide ways and means of effectively meeting their demands.

Deposits have become an unavoidable feature in the day to day transactions as that of a banker.

There is however, no legal basis for this procedure. According to Article 149 of the Constitution these should be credited to the consolidated fund.

The position thus emerging is one of incompatibility with the basic requirements of Parliamentary control. We would therefore recommend a restructure of the financial system providing for greater recourse to special funds and dispense with inappropriate accounting arrangements.

Enactment of an Audit Act. At present administrative funds and companies with government investments do not come within the Auditor-General's purview. Also the Auditor-General has no power to require those responsible to make good the losses suffered by the state due to misuse, mismanagement, irregularity, negligence or fraud.

We are also of the view that the dependence of the Auditor-General on the executive for his resources both manpower and financial is not congenial to a truly independent audit on behalf of Parliament as he must be completely free from all obligations to any individual or institution and must be free from arbitrary retaliation.

Elaborate safeguards have to be provided by Parliament through legislation to ensure the Auditor-General's independence of the executive branch and to confirm his position of being answerable and subservient only to Parliament. Therefore an Audit Act should be enacted.

**END OF**

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JUNE 20, 1986